

N. L. CLARKE MEMORIAL EDITION  
**THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST.**

"To the Law, and to the Testimony."

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**Rev. Nathan Lytle Clarke**

Born Feb. 7, 1811, Died Sept. 11, 1906.

# 75 YEARS - A DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH



1983 marks a distinct year for Clarke College: 75 years of Christian Education in Mississippi. On September 23, 1908, Clarke first opened her doors to students under the auspices of the Baptist General Association of Mississippi. Thus, she becomes the only state Baptist college founded by an organized Baptist body.

Considering the economic conditions of the time - average pay was \$.75 per day in Mississippi - establishing a Baptist college in a rural area of the state was a bold leap of faith. At the first historical 'encampment' at Blue Mountain in 1906 Dr. W.T. Lowery, then President of Mississippi College, delivered the need for Christian Education in Mississippi. W.B. Sansing, editor of the **Mississippi Baptist**, published the speech and the movement soon gained momentum across the state.

This growing concern, coupled with the recent death of the beloved N.L. Clarke of Newton County so touched the hearts of area Baptists, that the dream of a Baptist college named in honor of N.L. Clarke was born.

Nor was the college's namesake chosen lightly. Born in North Carolina in 1812, Bro. Clarke moved to Mississippi early in his life. He served as a missionary with the confederate army during the Civil War. He pastored many churches in the area, received 2,500 converts into the church, baptised over 1600, was at the bedside of over 500 in death, organized 25 churches, performed 3000 marriages and a like number of funerals. He was largely responsible for fueling the fires of Christian education in the area, and so it was proper that in his death a Baptist college was born.

After fierce competition between a half dozen towns, Newton was chosen as the site and on September 22, 1908, the college opened her doors with an enrollment of 104.

From that very first year there were difficulties, even desperate, times. Shortly after noon on January 13, 1909, fire broke out in the men's dormitory. Newton firemen rushed to the scene only to discover they lacked 1000 feet of hose to reach the building. They watched as the dormitory crumpled and fell.

This first large disaster seemed to set the precedent for many catastrophes to come, for the only thing that was damaged was the building itself. The spirit of faculty, students and friends was strengthened as they rallied to build anew.

Financial difficulties arose, and yet the enrollment hovered around the 200 mark and in 1913 the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted to include Clarke as one of their denominational colleges.

Still, financial insecurity threatened to be the ruin of Clarke College. Through faith in God, trust in the basic honesty of students and parents, and "innovative" financing Clarke was able to continue. M.O. Patterson as president introduced the "Buy a Bale" program and admitted students who could provide two bales of cotton. More than once livestock was accepted for payment on tuition.

There was a rapid turnover in administration during these lean years (nine presidents from 1908-1929) and adversity was a way of life. But Clarke continued to do what she has always done - carry on.

By the early 1930's many felt that the college should be closed, and indeed, the convention voted to do that very thing. They had, however, misjudged the tenacity and determination of Clarke supporters.

Since no buyer for the school could be found, a group of Christian business men formed a holding company and were allowed to lease the college for a period of five years for \$1.00 per year. Clarke carried on.

Enter John F. Carter. Dr. Carter was already a legend by the time he accepted the presidency of Clarke College in 1930. Indeed, he had been a faculty member since 1919 and had served as President once before. Throughout the turmoil of the Great Depression, Dr. Carter served as a faithful shepherd, ever conscious of the sustaining force of God in the life of this little college. Until his death in 1981 he maintained a close relationship to Clarke.

The city of Newton, realizing the valuable asset they held in the college, came to the rescue time again as aid was needed. The college doggedly held to its principles and silenced those who said the college could not survive by continuing to carry on.

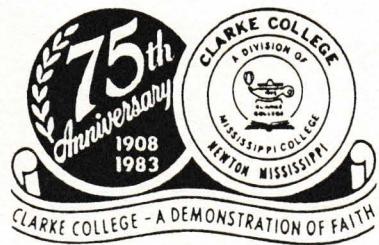
In 1945 the Mississippi Baptist Convention reclaimed Clarke and the college has operated under its controls since that time. Sustained leadership was provided as W.E. Greene and his successor, W.L. Compere, served for ten and twenty-two years respectively as President.

Still, Clarke College carries on. The recent merger with Mississippi College has brought change, but change that has not touched the heart of the purpose of Clarke. Lewis Nobles, President of Mississippi College, recently told a group of Clarke alumni. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools doesn't quiet know how to take the Mississippi College-Clarke merger. In times past the larger shcool would obscure the smaller one, and yet we have insisted that we will maintain the separateness and identity of Clarke College. While we have legally merger, Clarke will continue to operate in and of itself." He went on to say that "Clarke will continue to recruit and attract students seeking liberal arts education from the Christian perspective, especially those who seek training in church related vocations. Should students want to stay for two more years of Mississippi College sponsored upper division work, we will provide this in a number of areas."

Nobles responded that "Endowment, accounting procedures, and fund raising are kept entirely separate." He closed by encouraging alumni to renew their commitment to Clarke College by directing Christian young people to the college.

New programs have been added, including men's and women's intercollegiate basketball, to round out the offerings of extracurricular activities. Existing programs have been strengthened with new doctorate level faculty.

While we cannot possibly know what the future holds for Christian education, we do know that for nearly 75 years Clarke College has braved fire, financial difficulties, war, loss of support from her constituency, and depression. Clarke has truly been a demonstration of faith and with God's help she will continue.



## REV. NATHAN LYTHE CLARKE

Rev. Nathan Lytle Clarke was born in Burke county (now Caldwell county near the Catawba river, North Carolina, February 7, 1811. He was the fifth child of Jeremiah and Eleanor Clarke, and he had eight brothers and sisters. His mother was a Boone, a direct descendant of the great pioneer, Daniel Boone.

Jeremiah Clarke was a sturdy farmer, and stood among the first families of that country. He was not a professed Christian until near the close of his life. Mrs. Clark was a staunch Baptist, and the home had a family altar, around which the family was gathered every night for worship. Mrs. Clarke died in the year 1820, when young Nathan was only eight years old. Mr. Clarke never married again. He soon joined the church and spent the remainder of his life in the interest of his family and Maker.

Nathan Clarke was very studious, and he received the best educational advantages the country then afforded. The reading of the "Western Carolinian," a democratic newspaper, the Bible, and Whelby's General History created his great thirst for knowledge, which developed to marvelous proportions.

Opportunities to hear preaching in those days were rare. The first sermon young Clarke ever heard to remember, was preached by a Methodist Circuit Rider, and the First Baptist preacher was a Mr. Dodson, who preached the funeral of a neighbor lady. From early youth, he said his prayers regularly, and was very pious.

In 1835, his father's estate having been divided up and the old house abandoned, N.L. Clarke went to Sumpter county, Alabama to enter the mercantile firm of W. Carleton and Co. He remained there for only a short time, for his employers sent him to Gainesville, Alabama to take charge of their business. On the 10th day of June, 1838, he was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist church of Gainesville, by Rev. Sterling G. Jenkins. Twelve or thirteen others were baptized at the same time, among them two others, W.B. Cobb and B.F. Courtney, who also became preachers. Being impressed to preach, and not willing to begin at Gainesville, he soon left there to return to his old home where he might better prepare himself for the ministry. He traveled the whole distance of 600 miles on horseback. He spent the winter months of 1838-39 in school. On the 11th day of May, 1839, he was licensed to preach by the Lower Creek Baptist Church, North Carolina. On the following Sunday, May 12, in the same church, by the request of Pastor Powell,

he preached his first sermon, using the following text: "Whosoever is ashamed of me, and My word before this sinful and adulterous generation, of him will I be ashamed before my Father and the holy angels." He spent the summer and early fall studying and teaching the community. He was also superintendent of the Sunday school.

On the fourteenth day of November, 1839, N.L. Clarke and Miss Evaline D. Powell were married. Rev. Phillip Powell, uncle to the bride, officiating. The bride was seventeen years of age. On February 3, 1840, they left for Mississippi, a distance of 600 or 700 miles, in a buggy, never to again return to their native State, as it afterwards developed. They spent some time at Gainesville, Ala., and in April, 1840, they settled at Dekalb, Kemper County, Mississippi. In June, 1840, he attended the Baptist State Convention at Wahalak. In October, 1840, he settled in his new home in the eastern part of Neshoba county. He and his united with Unity Baptist church, Kemper county, eight miles from his home, and on April 11, 1841, he was ordained by that church to the full work of the ministry. Elds. Ross, Burwell, Barnes, and Farrar constituting the presbytery. He soon became pastor of Black Jack Grove church, Kemper county, where he first administered the ordinance of baptism. He became a member of the Mt. Pisgah Association in the year 1841, of which body he remained a member till his death. In 1842, he assisted in the organization of Rocky Creek church, Newton county, and became its pastor. It was necessary to dig a pool for baptizing. That pool, lined with the same plank, which were placed there 64 years ago, is still in use. In 1844 he again attended the Baptist State Convention, at Palestine church, Hinds county, and for the first and only time saw the capital city, Jackson, and here he first saw a railroad.

In November, 1847, Rev. N.L. Clarke and family moved to Newton county, near Decatur, and on Saturday before the first Sunday in January, he went into the organization of Decatur Baptist church, then called Enon, and at once became its pastor. In January, 1849, he became missionary under the appointment of the Mt. Pisgah Association, but remained pastor of the Decatur church. Thus he labored till the breaking out of the Civil War; and during the war was a missionary among the soldiers at Meridian and other

nearby points, but always returning once a month to preach at Decatur. For eight years after the war he was a missionary.

In the year 1855, at the suggestion of Rev. N.L. Clarke, the General Association was organized. It has been charged that the General Association, was organized to oppose the work of the Baptist State Convention. But this is not so. At that time the Convention was doing no mission work at all in south-east Mississippi. The only body then doing mission work in this part of the State, to any extent, was the Mt. Pisgah Association. By this time it had practically evangelized its territory, but beyond its bounds were numerous and vast destinations. True to Baptist principles and practices, Brother Clarke did not feel that the Mt. Pisgah Association, of which he was a missionary had the right to go into the territory of other associations to work. The work needed to be done, and the only solution to the problem, seemingly, was the organization of a general association, through which a district associations could co-operate in doing mission work. So the General Association was organized to do this neglected and much needed work.

On September 8, 1859, his wife, in giving birth to a child, died. Unto them were born ten children--five sons and five daughters. In the 25th day of September, 1860, he married Mrs. Emily Puckett, who still survives him. Unto them was born one child -- a son.

During the war between the states Brother Clarke did much missionary work, especially among the soldiers in Mississippi and Alabama, all the while supplying one or two churches as pastor. After the war he was a missionary for several years, preaching in the counties of Newton, Scott, Neshoba, Kemper, Lauderdale, Smith, Jasper, Jones, Simpson, and Covington counties, traveling from two to three thousand miles each year, facing heat and cold, crossing swollen streams and enduring many other hardships. Among the churches he established during this time was the First Baptist church of Newton, in the year 1869, of which he was pastor without a break for 35 years.

Having been a missionary for about twenty years, Brother Clarke, in about the year 1870, settled down to a full pastorate, serving four churches from his home in Decatur. In the year 1890, he moved to the town of Newton began the publication of the "MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST",

the newspaper of the General Association. But he kept up his pastoral work. He remained at Newton till January, 1904, when he and Mrs. Clarke, who is now about 75 years old, broke up housekeeping, and moved into the home of his son, G.P. Clarke, near Decatur, where they remained for a little more than one year, when they went to live with their son, Dr. L.M. Clarke, at Pelahatchie. Here they remained until a few weeks before his death, when they returned on a visit to Decatur, where, at the home of his son, G.P. Clarke, he fell and dislocated his hip, from the results of which he died Sept. 12, 1906, in his 95th year. Thus ended one of the most notable careers in the history of Mississippi.

• Following is a brief summary of his life's work:

He has received more than 3,000 converts into the church, and has baptized more than 2,000.

Has aided in the organization of about 100 churches, and has helped to ordain at least 150 preachers and deacons.

Was pastor of Decatur church for 58 years and Newton church for 35 years, without a break, and missed but few appointments.

Travelled on horseback, while missionary, more than 75,000 miles, or three times the distance around the earth.

Was president of the General Association for 51 successive years, and the only president it ever had. He was also moderator of Mt. Pisgah Association for 51 years in succession, and was present every meeting of these bodies since the time he became identified with them.

He performed hundreds of marriage ceremonies, and was editor of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST for 15 years.

Only once during his married life did he fail to hold family worship night and morning, when at home, and that was the night of the death of his first wife. He early formed the habit of daily reading 2 chapters in the Bible, which he kept up throughout life.

W.B.S.

## REV. T.J. MILEY, NEWTON.

How I came to know Rev. N.L. Clarke was through my parents on both sides, father and mother. When they were children, this servant of God preached at their father's house, and the school house in their community. In this way they made his acquaintance, and back as far as I can remember they would speak of him as the greatest preacher and the best man they ever saw. When I was 24 or 25 years old I went to hear him preach my uncle Henry Myers' funeral at Sharon church, in Smith county. This was the first time that I ever saw him. Later I heard him preach at a school house near where Sardis Baptist church now stands. I was profoundly impressed with his sermons. Later, while I was in school at Sylvarena, I attended church there and he was pastor. It was there that I learned to love and reverence him most. I had him in my home, and sat at his feet for instruction. His life and preaching was a real inspiration to me.

The most impressive feature to me of this great man was his life, his daily life, clean, pure from the moral defilements of the world. He loved the Book of his God, and loving it he obeyed it. It was his meat and drink to do his Father's will. I love to think of him and his godly work and life. I expect to meet him and see the crown placed on his head by my own dear Lord. "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, Write, blessed are the dead which are in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they rest from their labors; for their works follow them."

## REV. J.E. CHAPMAN, NEWTON

While others are paying their tributes of respect to the memory of our revered brother, Rev. N.L. Clarke, I want to add a small mite; in doing so, feel I can not do better than to give a few extracts from the last letter that I received from him, dated August 3, 1906.

"Dear Brother Chapman: It seems I will not get to the Board meeting at Newton. I regret it very much. God bless you all and his work. I was so long in the work without disappointment it now seems hard; but the Lord liveth, and blessed be His name and Kingdom. I trust you may have a good meeting.

I yet hope to be at the annual meeting at Fellowship. Oh, for divine help. I write these lines that I may not appear indifferent. I love the cause; it is the cause of God and salvation. God is blessing his cause wherever it is."

The present generation does not fully know what he was, nor what he has done for this country, and hence cannot properly appreciate him. The civil, moral and spiritual advantages we are enjoying to day is due to him more than any other man who ever lived in East Mississippi. The time spent, labors performed, sacrifices made, and sufferings undergone by him, will never be fully known to man; but they have gone on record in heaven, and in "that day" oh, what a rich reward will be given him.

As a man, his life was the purest the writer ever knew. Being closely associated with him for a number of years, I think I am prepared to bear testimony to this great truth. As a minister of the gospel none I ever knew were as faithful. I have heard many men preach, but he was the noblest "Roman" of them all.

He has left an impress on this country that will last for generations to come. His consuming affection was the love of souls and the cause of the Master whom he loved so well and served so faithfully.

I could write pages on things concerning him and his great work, but suffice it to say that his entire life was such that all men delighted to honor him, and he passed away with a halo of glory resting on his life, such as few men are ever privileged to enjoy. Let us emulate him in life and work, and we too, will be richly rewarded in "that day."

## J.W. PHILLIPS, MEWTON

Not in his gentle mother earth alone,

In comfortable sleep he lies enshrined;  
But in the hearts of those he left behind

He tills a place that still must be his own.

With those whose works, to dates to men unknown,  
Shall follow in their wake, we  
feel, we find  
His words, his ways upon our  
inmost mind  
Engraved and written in the  
purest gold.

## A. VENABLE, D.D., MERIDIAN

Perhaps no man ever lived in the country whose general good was so uniform as Rev. N.L. Clarke's. He was a man of many proportions and thoroughly able in body. Good health and active life marked the career in his youth to old age. The nature of his work subjected him to all kinds of exposures discomfort and peril. Neither, hot nor cold, calm nor storm, swollen streams, bridgeless and perilous, ever deterred him inspiration of a noble purpose a splendid constitution and vitality mad him superior to the hostile forces which for the health and cut short life of countless multitudes. vigorous constitution ever have performed the which he did with a zeal and tireless energy. Than a half century covering an area of hundreds of miles. Brother Clarke was a man of unusual natural endowment. His mind was strong and quick. He was a keen observer of mend and natures. His wide reading, study of the scriptures and sources of information helped him in the interpretation of God's word had disciplined his mind until it was at command. His imagery was of high order, indicating a fertile highly chastened imagination. He brought to everyone a well formed and great purpose. By his beliefs he stood unwavering. His loyalty and purpose, and love of forms and methods which he tried and found practical and effective made him appear to be as opposed to change. Brother Clarke was not opposed to progress, but he was slow to change his plans and only when he believed there was danger of loss of what he believed to be vital and imperative. His good sense, long experience and confidence in the soundness that he held as true and made him a nester of his brethren. His will was a well known and duly strong force in the ranks of his brethren, whether layman or minister. He was richly endowed with that indescribable trait which some have called personal magnetism-- that will project one's thought, convey will into others, and move men. This was due to the greatness of his personality under the pressure of compelling conviction. This made him an oracle among people. Commanding in presence, cogent in strong in conviction, strong as a lion, and gentle as a lamb, he was prince among men. As a preacher he was not the

emotional type, nor was strong in his forms of thought. And made not effort at rhetorical sermons, but simple, strong and earnest, he often became eloquent; sometimes in the prime of his ministry, he was overwhelming. His name has been the synonym for all that was sought in the character, life and work of a preacher of the highest type. To know him was to love him, as he moved among the people and sought to lift them to higher things. He knew but one theme, and that theme was a crucified risen and enthroned Lord Jesus Christ. To magnify the Christ and make Him a real saving power in the hearts of a sinful people absorbed his thought and inspired his tongue in all he preached. To enthrone Christ as Lord in the hearts of his people was the goal of his preaching and held the supremacy over all things else. To this theme and the consummation of this purpose he brought all his powers of mind and heart. He had an abiding confidence in the simple Gospel to save men, He relied upon nothing else, and in this confidence all his efforts were spent in the propagation of this doctrine.

The Bible he held to be inspired, the simple and only authority in matters of religion. It was to him a living reality. He was endowed with a high order of spiritual intuition, perfectly sane, which enabled him to grasp the heart of a passage and apply its meaning to his own spiritual needs as he sought to communicate it to others. His knowledge of systematic theology was profound and extensive, but his preaching was the expository type, Biblical rather than theological. His abiding faith in the power of the Gospel to save men and transform the world forces and bring them under tribute to the age long and world wide conquest of Christ made him hopeful. In his last few years he was cheerful as he caught the vision of that glorious day when the last outposts of earth should be a deed to the kingdom of God and Christ.

As a writer he had few equals. His sentences were models of simplicity and terseness. Both his thoughts and forms of statement were dignified, often stately, and always characterized by perspicacity. He showed great wisdom in the choice of his subjects, selecting those which would be most helpful to his readers. As an editor he sought to adapt himself to the needs of his people, and right well did he serve them. Had he chosen he could have become quite as noted as a writer as he was an organizer. When one thinks of that great life which is now closed, one is

reminded to ask when shall we see his like again? And how shall we make the most of the heritage he has left us? The results of his labors, and his fragrant influence he has left us, an abiding benediction.

## CAPT. A.J. BROWN, NEWTON.

I esteem it a high privilege to write an humble tribute to as great and good a man as Rev. N.L. Clarke.

I had known Mr. Clarke from very early youth; but not until he moved, with his family, to Newton in the year 1890, when he commenced the publication of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST, did I become his neighbor and more intimate friend.

The Biographical sketch included in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist, will convey to the reader the amount of work done by Mr. Clarke, and now I speak of him as a Christian, preacher, and citizen. As a Christian, it is well understood that he had great piety, and was always willing to testify for the Master. He had great zeal for the church, and church work.

The most notable feature of his character, to my mind, was his fidelity to duty. As a preacher Mr. Clarke stood usually above those of his brethren, with whom he came in contact. His well stored mind, and particularly in biblical knowledge, enabled him to reach all classed to whom he preached, and say something in every one of his sermons calculated to convey a comforting message, a warning rebuke to sin, an unfolding of scriptural truths to all who were willing to hear and appreciate the blessings of God's word. In prayer few men were more able. At times his prayers, apparently without effort or ostentation, were beautiful, eloquent, subline. As a citizen he was patriotic and honorable in his dealings -- taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the good of our country. As a friend, I must say I never appreciated nor knew of the good qualities he possessed, until I became closely drawn to him by association and personal contact. He was a high toned, liberal minded gentleman, a very polite, genial companion, naturally a good mind, liberal education, fine memory, which was largely enhanced by close study of good books, and particularly the Bible (of which he was very conversant), which gave him a fund of information rarely excelled. In discussion he was firm in his ideas, yet considerate and reasonable with those who differed from him.

He was social and refined in his manner, adapting himself in a remarkable degree to those of whom he came in contact. All young men should attempt to emulate the character and practice the virtues of Mr. Clarke.

It has been my pleasure to refer to him in some scriptural difficulties, and he always gave me, cheerfully, his construction of what I asked, and generally satisfactory.

When I think of the great amount of work done by him, and the attachment he had for the work, the length of time he held up under it, I am amazed - and can never cease to admire a man whose constancy and devotion to duty enabled him to perform acts of heroism never to be forgotten by those who knew him. I think that the performance of such duty was more to be prized than the acquisition of great wealth. To work for others was chosen by him rather than for self - self sacrifice to promote the welfare of the church and service of the Master were largely preferred to self profit or promotion. All this work was a labor of love and the performance of duty.

To have lived in close touch with Mr. Clarke, and to have understood his character, was an inspiration to any man. For a Christian worker and constant laborer for the Lord to have been closely associated with him was a benediction.

#### ELDER N.L. CLARKE

I like the term "elder": it is a New Testament title, and peculiarly fitted to our good Brother who has so recently left us for his heavenly mansion. He was an elder indeed: not in years only, but in kindly advice and worthy example. His influence extended far and wide; and while firm in his convictions, was always conservative.

My first acquaintance with Brother Clarke was a night spent in his home near Decatur, in the latter part of 1847. At the time I was connected with the "South Western Baptist Chronicle", of New Orleans - He was a strong friend of the paper. We were associated, through correspondence, in another "Chronicle", several years later; and became still more intimate during the war up to the time of his death.

A staunch missionary: he "contended earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints", though always courteous, with brotherly love. His faithfulness to engagements was marvelous: his endurance wonderful, and mild firmness admirable. Though an uncompromising Baptist, he regarded other denominations with Christian charity, and was loved by all the people. So, I may say: "He is not dead, but sleepeth."

L.A. Duncan

#### REV. J. L. WILLIAMS, DALEVILLE.

I am pastor of the Baptist Church at Dekalb. A few days since I was perusing the early records of the body and came across something that I thought might be of interest to the preaching public in general.

It refers to that great man, our brother and friend, Rev. N. L. Clarke, and is as follows:

"Fellowship (now Dekalb) Baptist Church, Dekalb, Miss. "Sunday 5th April 1840. Received by letters from Lower Creek church, North Carolina, Brother Nathan L. Clarke and his wife, sister Evaline D. Clarke.

"Saturday, May 2nd. On motion adjourned. Prayer by Brother Clarke."

"Saturday, July 4th, he was appointed a committee to write rules of decorum. Saturday Aug. 1. Reported on same appointed to write Associational letter to the Choctaw Association.

Saturday 5th September said letter adopted by the church.

Saturday 3rd October, 1940. 3rd Item. On application, letters of dismission were granted to Brother N. L. Clarke and sister Evalina D. Clarke.

I should be glad to see a history of this most wonderful man and extraordinary teacher and leader put in permanent form, and I furnish these items as connecting his Mississippi career to the "Old North State." and to show in that early day how busy he was in the Master's service. May his offspring prosper and be a blessing as he was, and the truths he advocated and lived continue to spread and flourish till all shall know and serve the Lord as he did, "from the rivers to the end of the earth."

#### THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

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All obituaries over 200 words will be charged for at the rate of 1 cent per word, and should be paid before insertion.

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Sansing and Gallaspay, Proprietors.

Rev. W. B. Sansing, ..... Editor  
Jas. E. Chapman ..... Associate Editor  
W. P. Chapman ..... Field Editor  
Tracy Gallaspay ..... Publisher  
Wednesday, October 21, 1906

#### RET. J.A. HACKETT, MERIDIAN SOME PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

I first saw Brother Clarke in July 1868. He was then in the 50th year of his age. It was on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention, which met with the Baptist Church in Meridian that year. I saw him just to know him in the pulpit on the night of the first day when (as the alternate to Dr. J. M. Lewis who was present, but sick) he preached the convention. I do not recall the text nor the exact time of thought pursued, only a few pungent sayings, but have a definite recollection of his fine, robust personality, manly bearing, great earnestness, and clearness of speech; and further more, that he held the undivided attention of a packed house for more than an hour. The picture has never faded from memory to this day, though I have never since seen him at any other meeting of our Convention.

It was my pleasure and profit to assist him in a special meeting at Newton once. I think in 1875 at which time I became intimately acquainted with him, to need much of his former life, not a little of his amiable traits, and much of his noble and lovely character. He was old enough to be my father, being 20 years my senior, but was one of the most companionable pastors with whom I ever labored. It was then that a kindly feeling and real friendship came about between us that has continued until the end of his life, and that will be freshly renewed up yonder to be perpetuated forevermore. Since then I have been with him in five or six meetings, the General Association and always with agreeable accord and helpful cooperation. He as a time presiding officer, now well how to dispatch business and had his own peculiar way of administering parliamentary law, which, however, is always just, effective and voluntary. He was emphatically the leader of his people, but never contrary to, or in anywise in contravention of, the policies of organization.

Brother Clarke was distinguished for the admirable quality of conservatism. He was unwilling to take liberties strenuously upon a close and liberal construction of the New Testament, both in doctrine and practice. He looked upon a "thus saith the Lord" as final for what was to be done as well as what was to be believed. On that account he was not in all things quite in sympathy with all of our denominational methods. For this, I greatly admired him and often said if he happened in any case to be a mite too conservative it would serve as a wholesome check to some others of our Baptists kin, men who were confessedly very recklessly radical.

I heard Brother Clarke preach but seldom, but never without large profit and pleasure, and never had a more attentive nor helpful listener when I had occasion to "hold forth the word of truth" in his presence.

In 1876, in company with Brother M. T. Martin, I drove in an open buggy, drawn by a span of good travellers, from Crystal Springs to Leaf River church, near where Ellisville, now stands, and met Brother Clarke, the first time I had ever seen him in that great body of Baptists. He then reminded me of a master workman who "needeth not to be ashamed," he had his work so well in hand and his adjustants and co-laborers so thoroughly identified with himself. There were six men present who stood together like a phalanx of Roman soldiers; these were Judge Thigpen, a distinguished layman, clerk of the body, and Elders Johnston (the "piney woods rifle."), Freeman, Murrell, Wm. Thigpen, and N.L. Clarke. These six, of whom Clarke was by all odds and common consent the leading spirit, made, with the help of many good brethren under God, the General Association a wonderful power for good in the piney woods of South and Southeast Mississippi. There I saw Brother Clarke at his best in a iorensic scrap. He and Brother Martin "locked horns" on Mississippi College, and especially the ministerial educational feature of the institution; Clarke claiming that they were educating men for the ministry, and Martin insisting that they were educating men who were already called of God and approved by the churches in the ministry. Martin, as many have occasion to remember, was no mean antagonist, and Brother Clarke could only effect a condition of iron bound caution as a safeguard at Clinton, the seat of the College, in the Board of Ministerial Education, who had the matter in charge. While Martin had the sympathy of those present in the general proposition, Clarke decidedly had it in the safeguard compromise. There is a difference, if you look at it right. We are to educate only those whom God calls into His ministry, and not young men who may prefer the ministry as a profession and therefore call themselves. I am sure we cannot be too careful in that; for from several indications there are probably not a few men in the ministry now whom God has not called, a few at least whom the devil very adroitly uses to do his measley work. Brother Clarke's well tried conservatism was the gold in steel that accounted for the sturdy robustness in the barometer of his noble character.

Others have sketched him as a man, a preacher, and as a citizen.

I have tried to write of home only as I have seen and known him, and believe that his memory is worthy of all that has been said of him. He believed, therefore he spoke - he was a man of conscience as well as of sense and sound judgement. He loved the Lord whom he served, and tried with all of his life forces to serve Him faithfully. He loved the people also, therefore he was their servant. Napoleon, while travelling incognito on one occasion met a French women of the people as she was hurrying forward as said to her, "Whither so hurriedly, my good woman?" when she replied, "I am going to a place where I can see the Emperor when he passes." The great general said, "Is Napoleon any better than the former ruler? Are they not all tyrants?" The woman made reply, "The Burborus were the rulers of the riclic and nobles, but Napoleon is OUR ruler." Brother Clarke was emphatically the people's man and leader, and they loved to follow him. "His praise" is not only in the gospel through out all the churches," but on all of the tongues of all the saints, and love for him is in all their hearts. "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like a shock of corn cometh in his season," and us such Brother Clarke has finished his course with joy, and gone home to rest.

#### REV. A.V. ROWE, WINONA.

The presence of this venerable man, Rev. N. L. Clarke, among his brethren was always attended with pleasure to himself and with profit to them. His life was pitched on the plane of a servant of Christ. This was his highest ambition, his noblest attainment. This service was manifested, and was his delight, in serving the cause of Christ where ever in God's providence his lot was cast. The meek and gentle spirit shone out in all he said or did. It was not my privilege to have personal acquaintance with him until it might be said of him, as Paul said of himself, "such a one as Paul the aged." It was a cool October evening when I first met him, and as I stood to greet him, I could not but feel the majesty of a noble personality. Here was a man who had attained his ninthy second year, and during the many years of varied experience no one had ever doubted his Christian integrity, or had lost faith in him as a man of God. He had stood at the front in directing the activities of his brethren and the churches, many of which he had planted, were glad to recognize in him the qualities of a great leader. Now enfeebled by age, he could not find it in his heart to be absent from the assembly of the men whom he loved and as in all the past, still, show himself their servant for Christ's sake. It was beautiful to see the love and esteem in which he was held by the people, young and old, as he joined in the work of the General Association, or chatted at the fireside.

I can not help saying, "He gave to the world the best he had, and the best came back to him." And that best was love. He did not suffer himself to be lost amid the army of young men who had come up to help on the work which for more than a generation he was foremost in. His interest in the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom made him alert and helpful in its affairs to the very last, and there was undoubted joy at the increased activity of the churches in development along mission lines as marked in the last few years of its history, and in this was especially manifested spirit, for he had no greater joy than to know that the churches were doing well. And if one thought above another mark his attitude to the churches, I dare say he would have voiced it in the words of Paul, "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved, and longed for my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord my dearly beloved." May a double portion of his spirit fall upon the pastors, and may these churches that he so much loved exemplify in their work all that was near to him, because him, because it was dear to our Lord.

#### REV. G. W. RAINER, McLAIN

I first made my acquaintance with Brother Clarke at Mt. Gilead Church, Laurderale County, perhaps about 1878, where he preached the funeral of the father of the Gressett family of which A. Gressett was a preacher and an active member of our General Association. To say that I was impressed by his reverential and dignified appearance is but stating it mildly. His sermon, doweling on the happiness of the righteous dead, was full of comfort to the children that were there. We took dinner together at Brother Pigford's where he asked me all the questions that was necessary to learn of my call to the ministry; and then he gave me his own experience of grace and call to preach. I was much impressed by his piety and godliness and felt I had been made better for having met him.

Our next meeting was in 1880 when I had moved into Lauderdale County and when I went into the Mt. Pisgah Association and we worked together until his death. We labored together in a number of meetings that were all pleasant and agreeable. I have been an officer within the body of the General Association since 1893, and the unity and mildness which he displayed in that body are well known by all. This body he presided over for fifty years. And oh, how we will miss him.

May God deal kindly with the children and especially with his companion whose faithfulness stood by to the end. To be with N. L. Clarke was to have your life made better. I availed myself of opportunities to be with him.

### **REV. W. H. BOONE McHENRY**

I am glad to have the privilege with a great many others, to say something in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist, of the man who is due more credit than any other, for the strong hold that Baptists now have on East Mississippi. His power as a leader made him easily among the first person one would see at a gathering. Indeed, no one could be in his company without knowing that they were in the presence of a great man. He served his generation well and I earnestly believe that he will be considered great in any generation that will live after him. He being a distant relative and a writer, furnished a reason for heart to heart talks on several occasions. I found him to be faithful, consistent and Christ like, weighing well every matter that came before him.

N. L. Clarke was a great defender of the truth he contended earnestly for that which he believed Gods word taught. And while he possibly was not without faults incident to his life, yet possessing character without reproach. We shall raise him most when we meet in the General Association, where he has been without fail. It seems to me God will in memory of such service, delight to say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I thank God for the remembrance of such a life.

### **DEACON L. A. DUNCAN, MERIDIAN**

A leading characteristic of Brother N. L. Clarke, was faithfulness to duty. He was always true to his convictions. That he was courteous in dealing with Christians of different faith, he was unyielding in his practice.

He was a close student of the Bible, especially of the New Testament, and firm in his adherence to "the faith once delivered unto the saints." In patient continuances in "every good word and work", he cannot be excelled.

Though dead, he yet liveth in the hearts of his people and his influence cannot die.

### **REV. L. J. CAUGHMAN, TAYLORSVILLE, MISS**

Somewhere between the year 1867 and 69 it was my privilege to meet with and form the acquaintance of Rev. N. L. Clarke. At that time he was laboring by appointment of the Mt. Pisgah Association I first heard him preach at a school house near where I lived in Smith county, and where he organized a church which at his own suggestion, was styled Sharon church of Regular Baptists. I then being a Luther an and a stranger to Baptist principles, did not at all enjoy brother Clarke's preaching, but the more I heard him the better I liked him, and it was he who led me to a closer study of God's Word and instilled into

my mind Baptist principals, and at whose hands I was baptized into the fellowship of Sharon church. In a few years after I joined the church; brother Clarke, by request of the church, assisted by another minister, ordained me to fill the office of deacon, and in that capacity I served the church for two years, when I felt impressed to preach, and on a statement made by brother Clarke to the church, I was liberated, and in a short while my ordination was called for, when brother Clarke, aided by two other ministers ordained me to the full work of the gospel ministry.

Brother Clarke preached for the church at Sharon for a term of fifteen years, during which he preached at the Sylvarena and also preached to some few destitute places in Smith County. I was associated a great deal with this good brother during my first work in the ministry, and received from him counsel that has proven a blessing to me. I can truthfully say that he has been a father to me in the ministry, and I shall ever cherish his memory. The name of Rev. N. L. Clarke will go down in history. Even those who knew him and did not agree with him in all that he believed and advocated admired him because of his honesty and faithful works. It is rightfully said, a true and faithful servant of God has fallen, a good man gone, and while his body lies in its mother earth, his spirit is at rest with God's redeemed and with the Savior of us all.

### **M.J. TATUM, HICKORY**

You give all a chance to write a short letter on the life and usefulness of the greatest and noblest man that ever trod the soil of Newton County, the banner county of all East Mississippi; and who can this man be only the venerable old soldier, Rev. N. L. Clarke.

Away back in the early fifties, when I was quite small, this noble man of God used to preach near my father's home and he, and my mother, too, were faithful soldiers of the cross. This good man would come and with us, and then it was that I was taught, and learned to love him. If he ever made a crooked step, I don't reakon any one ever saw it. He has been to my home and stayed with me a great many times, and we were always proud to see him come, and be too, said that he loved to come and stay with us to have me sing for him, as my father used to have me sing for him when I was very small. To say that he was a great man is not saying too much. Young men, is there not another in all this numberless host that can measure up to this great and good man? If I were a young man today, I would spend a life in trying to follow in the footsteps of this good and useful man of God.

### **REV. Z. K. GILMORE, OTOE.**

A great leader has fallen asleep and is laid with our fathers. In the death of our esteemed and much loved brother, N. L. Clarke, who has spent his life in the cause that he so much loved, a work in which he never tired.

Through heat, cold, wet and dry, he has gone to carry the message of love. The cause of Christ has lost an earnest, faithful, and zealous worker. He was deep in Bible doctrine, and an uncompromising Baptist, always ready to go, always on hand, ready to counsel, and a great counsellor he was. He was a liberal giver. No one has ever lived that loved the Mt. Pisgah and General Associations more than Brother Clarke did. It will be sad when we meet in the General Association this fall without its great leader. But while we meet, his spirit will be in the peaceful presence of Him whom he loved so dear.

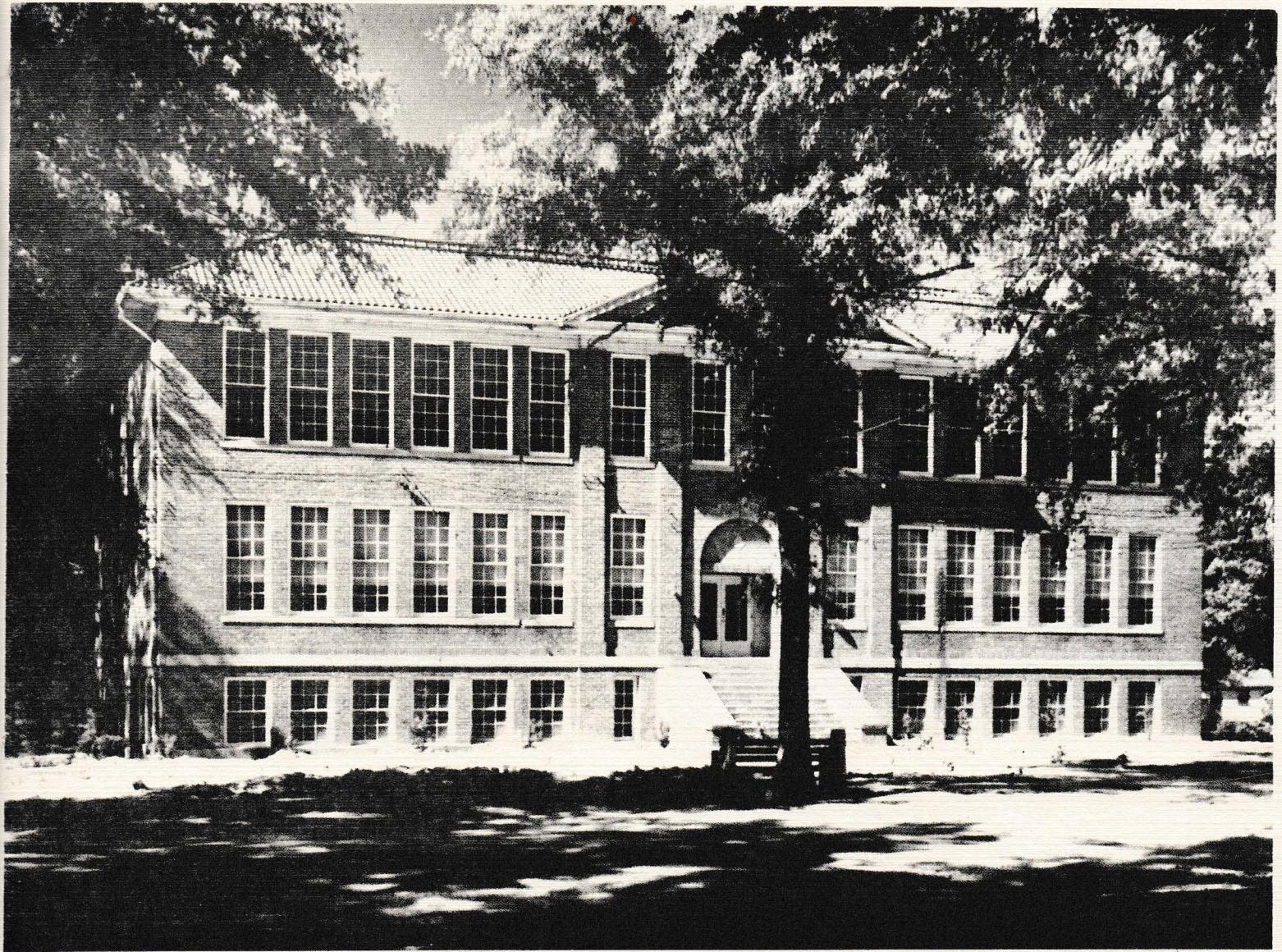
### **REV. J. H. PURVIS, FLORA**

I wish to express my sentiments and regards for our late and lamented brother N. L. Clarke. While I never had the privilege of meeting him, I have from a child always heard his noble life praised. Of late years I have read of him a great deal, and surely he might be termed the father of the Baptist cause in East Mississippi. While his name may not have been written as high as some, it has been written on the hearts of mankind. He has left us an example and influence that eternity alone can reveal. Our loss can not be estimated. He served his generation well, and god has fallen him home to receive a crown which will sparkle with many stars.

Let us all imitate his noble character and his zeal for God, and press onward. Let some intimate friend write up his life. It ought to be in every home.

### **REV. W. P. CHAPMAN, NEWTON**

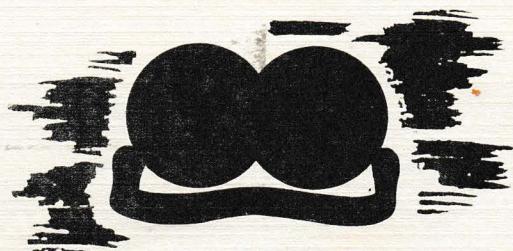
In making up the memorial number of the Mississippi Baptist, I wish to pay this tribute to profound respect to our venerable brother and departed father, Rev. N. L. Clarke. As a New Testament preacher and missionary Baptist he had but few equals, and no superiors; for earnestness, perseverance, and godly consecration, he stands out as one of the brightest stars in the firmament of gospel evangelism. His record, as a man, citizen, husband, father, and advocate of civic righteousness, was outstanding. While I did not have the pleasure and benefit of his association as much as some other brethren, yet I know him as one of God's noble men and I lay this tribute at his feet in loving remembrance of his devoted life to God and humanity.



Academic Building

# Through the Years - a Golden Purpose

THE STORY OF CLARKE MEMORIAL COLLEGE • NEWTON, MISSISSIPPI





**PERSONAL MESSAGE  
FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*The story of Clarke Memorial College is a story of  
a vision beyond apparent possibilities,  
a purpose beyond present attainment,  
and an achievement beyond visible resources.*

I should like to pay tribute to those who through the years have had a part in the accomplishments of this "School of Opportunity." There have been many of them and they have helped in many ways. They were trustees, members of administration and faculty, students, denominational leaders, pastors, donors of money, and friends giving valuable support with their interest and their prayers.

I hope this presentation will give some insight into the remarkable record that a host of people have helped to write.

Yours for a greater future,

*W. Lowrey Compre*

W. Lowrey Compre

*"For the Lord of Hosts hath purposed—and His hand is stretched out." ISAIAH 14:27*

# Through the Years — a Golden Purpose

**1908 – 1958**

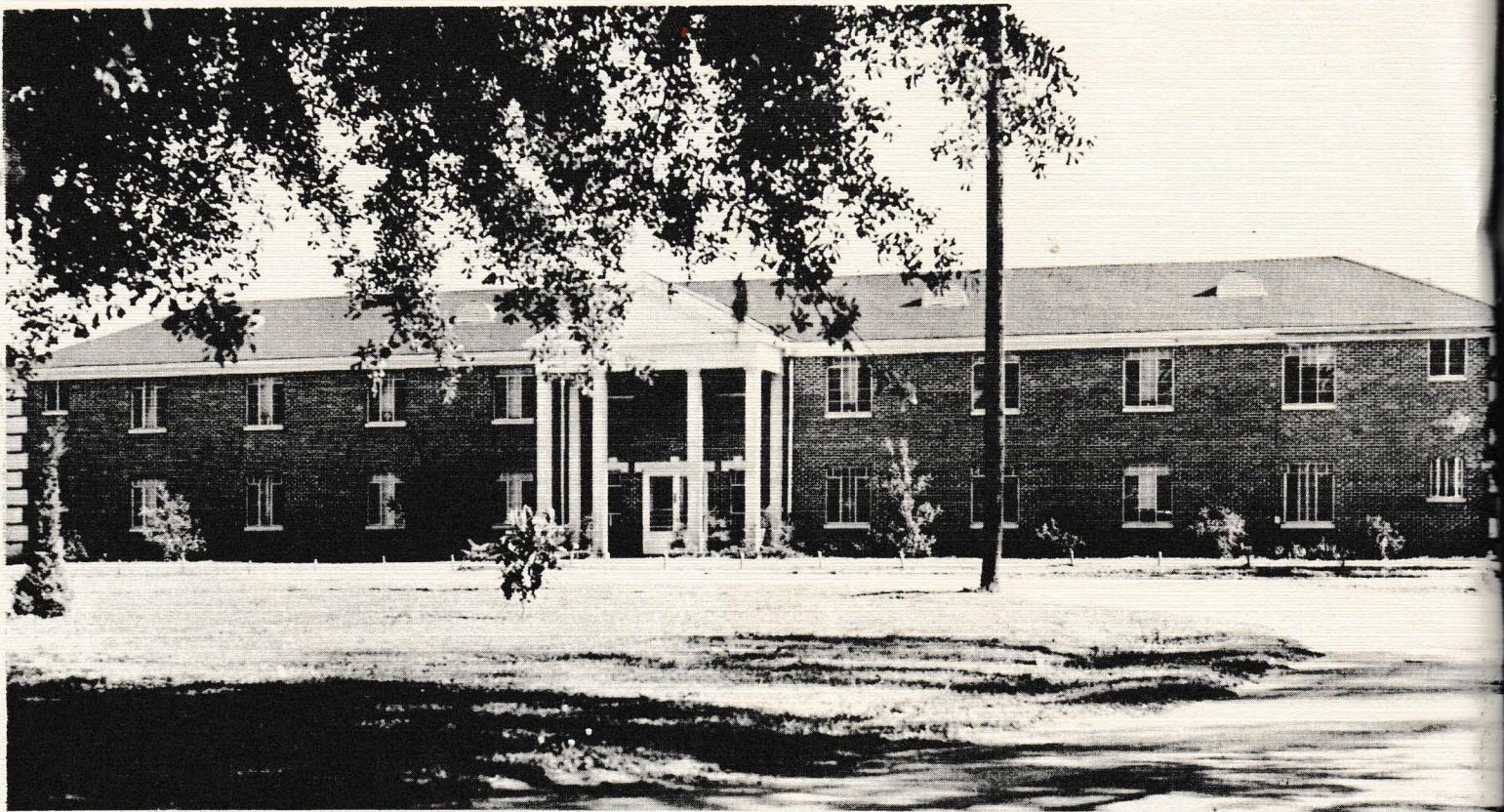
*Dean Bryant, President  
Compere and Business  
Manager Baker in con-  
ference.*

**I**N THE EARLY YEARS of the 20th century a school was born which was destined to render a most significant and distinctive service. But before the birth of Clarke Memorial College there was born in the minds and hearts of Baptist people in East Mississippi A GOLDEN PURPOSE—to provide for their youth an education under Christian influence that would prepare them for more effective service in the work of Christ. Founded by The General Association of Regular Baptists in Mississippi, the new school was named in memory of Reverend Nathan L. Clarke, who had been a prominent leader in the Association for more than half a century.

## With Immediate Growth The Purpose Is Manifest

The first session was opened September 22, 1908, with S. B. Culpepper as President, a faculty of six teachers and an enrolment of 104 students.





*Boys' Dormitory*

The remarkable growth of the first few years emphasized the fact that a supporting organization larger than the General Association was needed, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention accepted the school in 1914. Following the resignation of President Culpepper, L. G. Gates served one year as Acting President and was succeeded by M. O. Patterson. Other presidents of the early years were R. A. Venable, Bryan Simmons, T. A. J. Beasley, and John F. Carter.

#### **Through Changing Patterns The Purpose Continues**

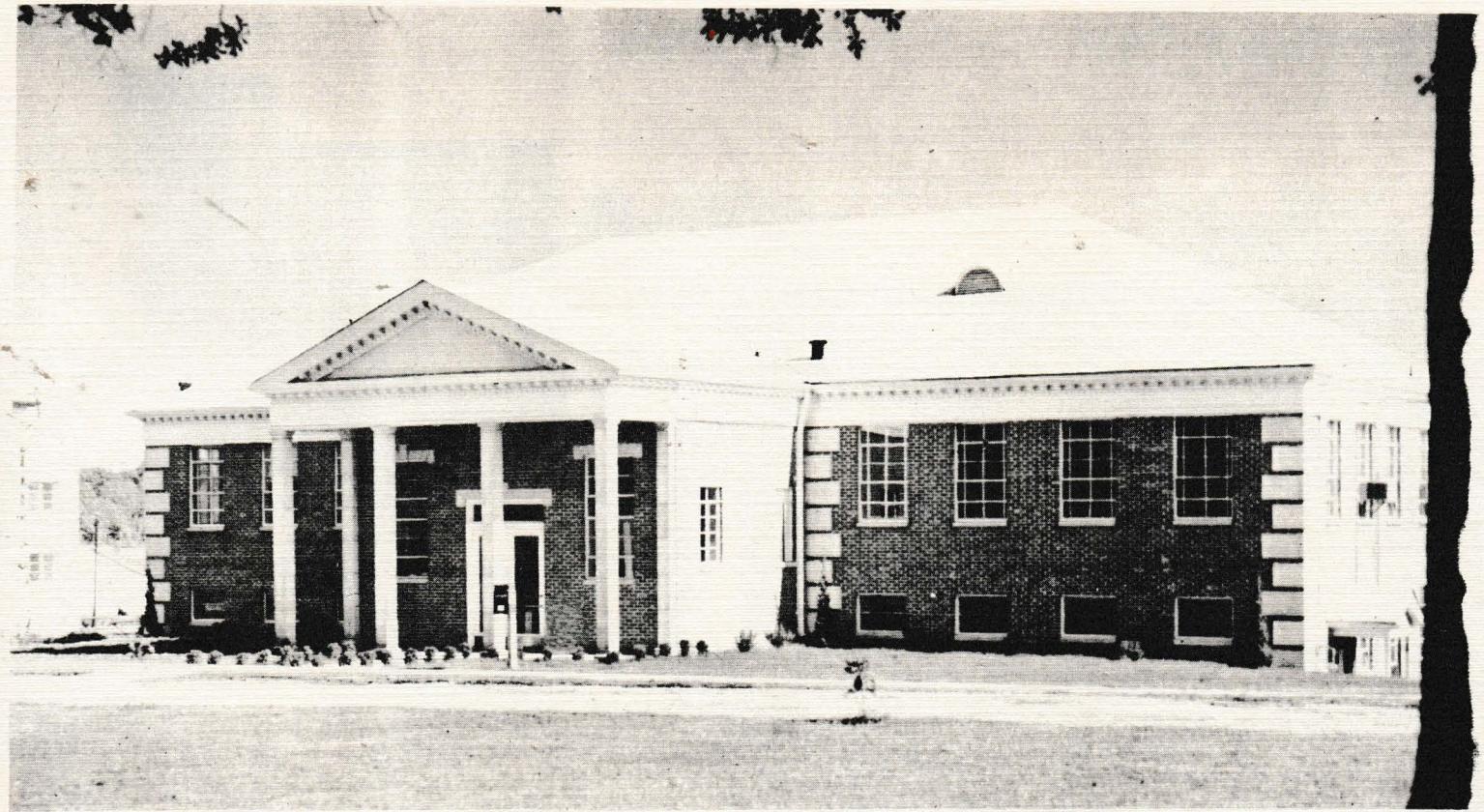
For eleven years the college was operated as a senior college, granting the B.A. and B.S. degrees. In 1919 it was decided that it should be a junior college, and since that time this has been its status. In its preparatory department it has offered the opportunity for mature students who have not finished high school to prepare for college work. Though the pattern

changed, the purpose continued. Clarke was accredited by the Mississippi Junior College Commission in 1926, during the presidency of H. T. McLaurin, being one of the first two schools thus recognized. McLaurin was followed by presidents W. T. Lowrey and John F. Carter.

#### **In Great Trials The Purpose Is Refined**

Clarke College has known many discouraging and distressing times. Two disastrous fires in the first sixteen years, serious financial problems, and a far greater need to meet than the supporting constituency provided for, all combined to produce tremendous difficulties through which very few schools could have survived. Several times the people of Newton answered the challenge in a heroic way and made large contributions to preserve the school.

During the stormy days of the early depression years the Convention, facing severe finan-



*Administrative Center and Dining Hall*

cial strain, discontinued its support of Clarke and voted to close the college. However, there was such a need for its unique service that the school continued to operate privately under a lease arrangement for fifteen years, until in 1946 the Convention resumed its support. Leasing the

property and serving as president during this era were A. A. Roebuck, S. L. Stringer, C. Z. Holland, W. L. McMullan, Freeman S. May, J. L. Boyd and W. E. Greene.

Only in eternity will there be revealed the full extent of the achievement of those whose

*Faculty Meeting*





Lobby in BSU Center

devoted and sacrificial service to a great cause kept the doors of Clarke College open through this difficult period.

In one of the great hymns there is a graphic picture presented by these words:

*"The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."*

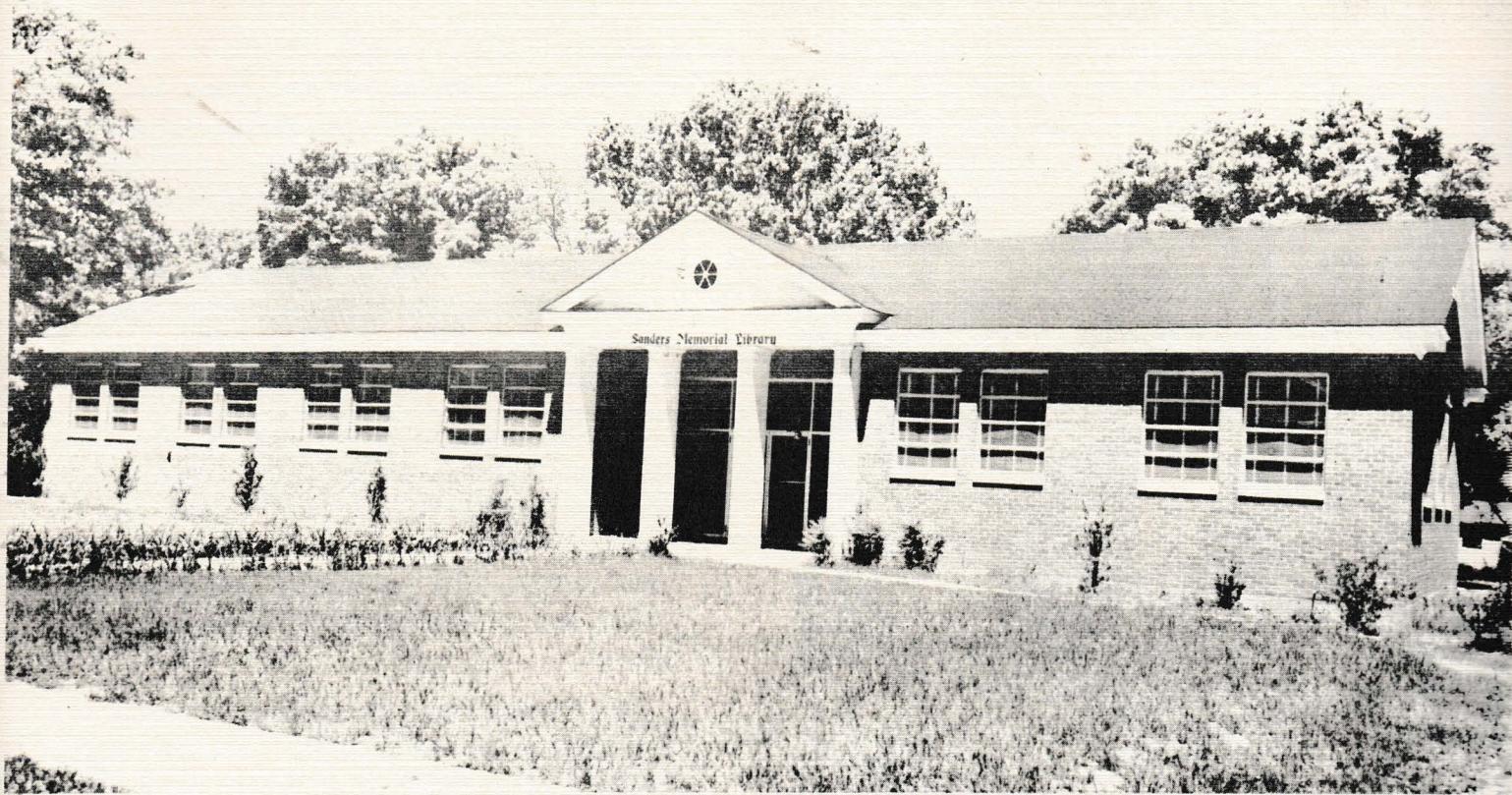
Under the guiding hand of God, it seems that the many trials and hardships have been used to burn out the dross of inordinate pride and to refine the gold of Clarke's triumphant purpose.

#### Through Enlarging Influence The Purpose Is Extended

Dr. William Earle Greene served as President from 1944 to 1954, the longest administration in

the history of the school. Under his leadership there was marked progress along many lines—growth in enrolment, increased financial support, new buildings, and a larger place in the minds and hearts of Mississippi Baptists. In 1946 the Convention took note of the progress and resumed its support of the college. During this time an endowment was begun, many new homes were built on the campus for faculty and students, and three of the major school buildings were constructed. Also, the college was accepted as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1952, thus attaining full accreditation.

When Mrs. Bessie E. Kent, of Forest, passed away in December, 1954 her will revealed two bequests which brought to Clarke College the



*Sanders Memorial Library*

President Compere looks over 1958 Annual with Miss Geraldine Shehan, secretary to the president, and Mrs. Marlin Hicks, director of publicity.





*Therman V. Bryant, Dean*

largest individual gift in its history and one of the largest ever to come to a Mississippi Baptist institution. Besides a specific bequest of \$10,000 the final bequest left the residue of the estate to the school. This residue consisted of approximately \$130,000 worth of securities which the trustees placed in the endowment. Throughout the years ahead this great friend will be living on in the enlarged work of the school she loved.

The administration of President W. Lowrey Compere began on January 1, 1955. The college has continued to enlarge its facilities and increase in favor with the denomination. Two new buildings have been erected and another which was under construction has been completed.

The Sanders Memorial Library was built in 1955-56 at a cost of \$45,000. The major portion of this amount, \$25,000, was given by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sanders, of Aberdeen, in memory of Mr. Sanders' parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Sanders, of Kosciusko.

The Cockrell Gymnasium has been completed and named for Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cockrell, of Tupelo, who have given large sums of money to this and other phases of the work.

The new Girls' Dormitory was built in 1957 from funds allocated by the Convention as part of the Christian Education Building Program promoted by the Education Commission. Constructed at a cost of approximately \$165,000, it provides comfortably for 120 girls. It is one of the nicest dormitories in the state.

A strong and progressive academic program is carried on under the supervision of Dean Therman V. Bryant. Mr. Joe Baker manages the Business Office and under his able direction the school's business affairs are kept in a healthy condition. A competent faculty and staff and a splendid student body numbering approximately 300 compose a harmonious and happy campus.

family. A wholesome Christian atmosphere pervades the entire campus and this provides the "plus" to an excellent educational program.

#### Through Dedicated Alumni The Purpose Is Known

The success of any school is measured by its alumni. Many factors enter into the accomplishment—buildings, administration, faculty, supporting constituency—but in the final analysis, a school is known and its success is shown by the people it has prepared.

Alumni of Clarke College are rendering significant service in many walks of life. Ten are

foreign missionaries under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, while others are serving as Missionaries in the homeland. Many of the Baptist pastors throughout Mississippi and other states are former students of Clarke. Numbered among the alumni are U. S. Congressmen, State Legislators, prominent educators, including officials in the State Department of Education, highly successful businessmen, staff members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and others who are distinguished in their fields. Many alumni are living useful lives as educational directors, ministers of music, school administra-



*Joe Baker, Business Manager*

tors, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, business people, nurses, secretaries, homemakers and in various other fields.

Clarke graduates have gone on to four year colleges and graduate schools for further preparation and have splendid records, having received a good foundation for their additional studies. They have discovered that the academic work at Clarke compares favorably with that of the senior colleges to which they have gone. Others have found it necessary to go directly

into their chosen vocations and their achievements reveal that Clarke has prepared them to render acceptable service.

#### Golden Opportunities To Further The Purpose

Since the school has accomplished so much with its limited means, how much more could it do if provision is made for larger and better facilities and more financial strength.

1. Additions to Physical Plant. Several new building units are needed in order that Clarke



*Student group in lobby of Girls' Dormitory*



*Checkout Desk in Library*

College may meet its challenge for the years ahead. Some of these have already been approved by the Convention on the recommendation of the Education Commission but will have to wait until funds are provided through special contributions. Others are in a long range plan for the future—

Administration Building, estimated at \$225,000.

Additional unit for Boys' Dormitory, estimated at \$35,000.

Fine Arts Building.

Science Building.

Surfacing for streets and drives.

An organ and several pianos for Music Department.

Equipment for Science laboratories.

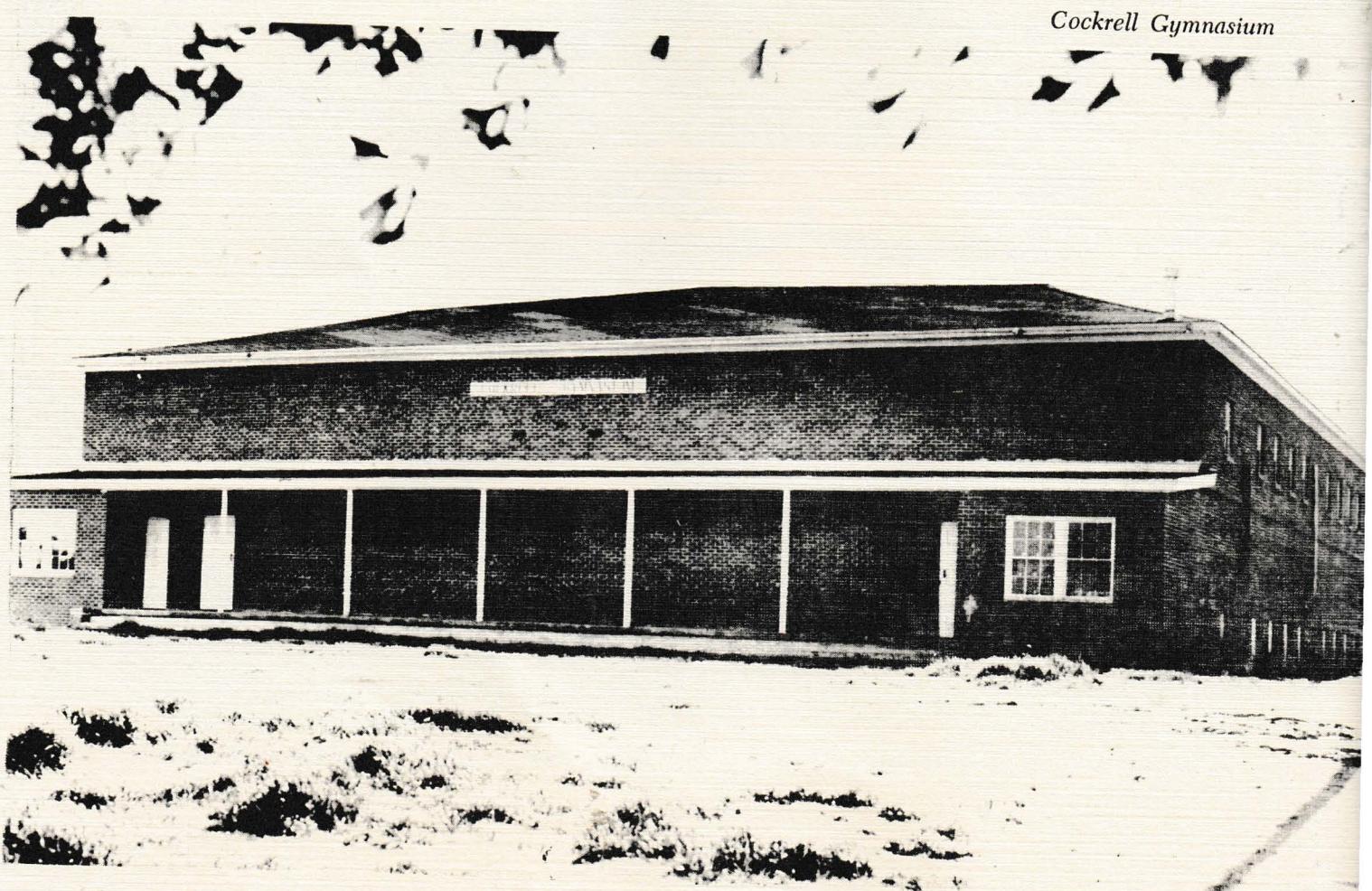
2. Additional Endowment. The endowment has been greatly increased in the last three years, largely through the investments received from the Kent Estate and some from other estates. It now stands at approximately \$170,000. Actually, the school needs a minimum of a million dollars in endowment.

3. Student Loan Funds. Clarke has used very effectively a small revolving loan fund which has been built up within the last few years. Each



Dining Hall

Cockrell Gymnasium



year a number of students are helped with loans to take care of part of their expenses. As they repay the loans the college lends the money to other students. Another fund, the A. A. Pigford Loan Fund, works on the same basis. It was established by Mrs. A. A. Pigford, of Lumberton, in memory of her late husband. The school could use effectively \$100,000 more in this type of loan fund which helps students to help themselves.

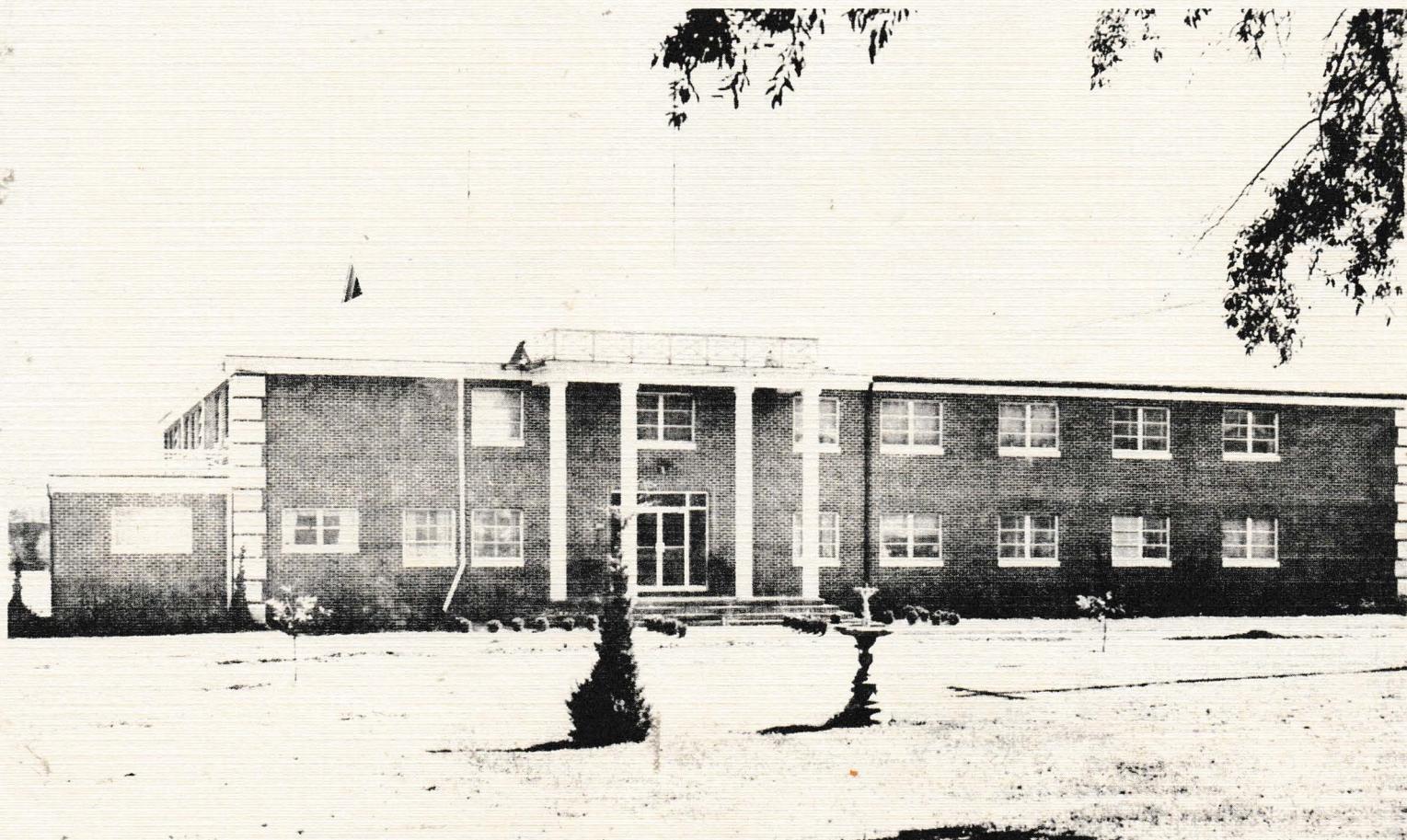
#### **"God Made This Place For A College"**

A 1908 news story reports that many visitors to the campus of the new school were heard to

say, "God made this place for a college." A half-century of history bears testimony to the truth of this statement. Apparently the rolling hills and spreading oaks were made for this use, but these years reveal a far deeper truth—God seems to have made a significant place for Clarke College in His own great plans. Men have come and gone; their varying purposes have waxed and waned; but the steadfast purpose of God has endured.

Clarke Memorial College faces a promising future with assurance that there will always be

**Through the Years—A Golden Purpose!**



*Girls' Dormitory*

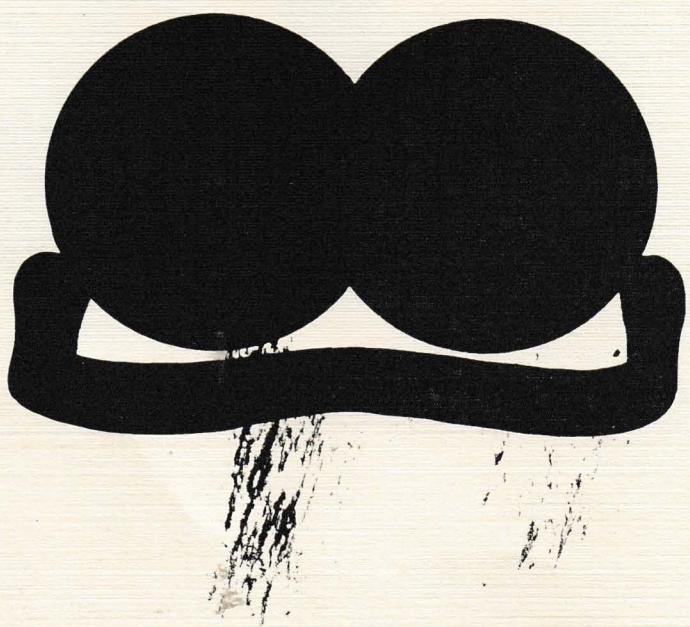
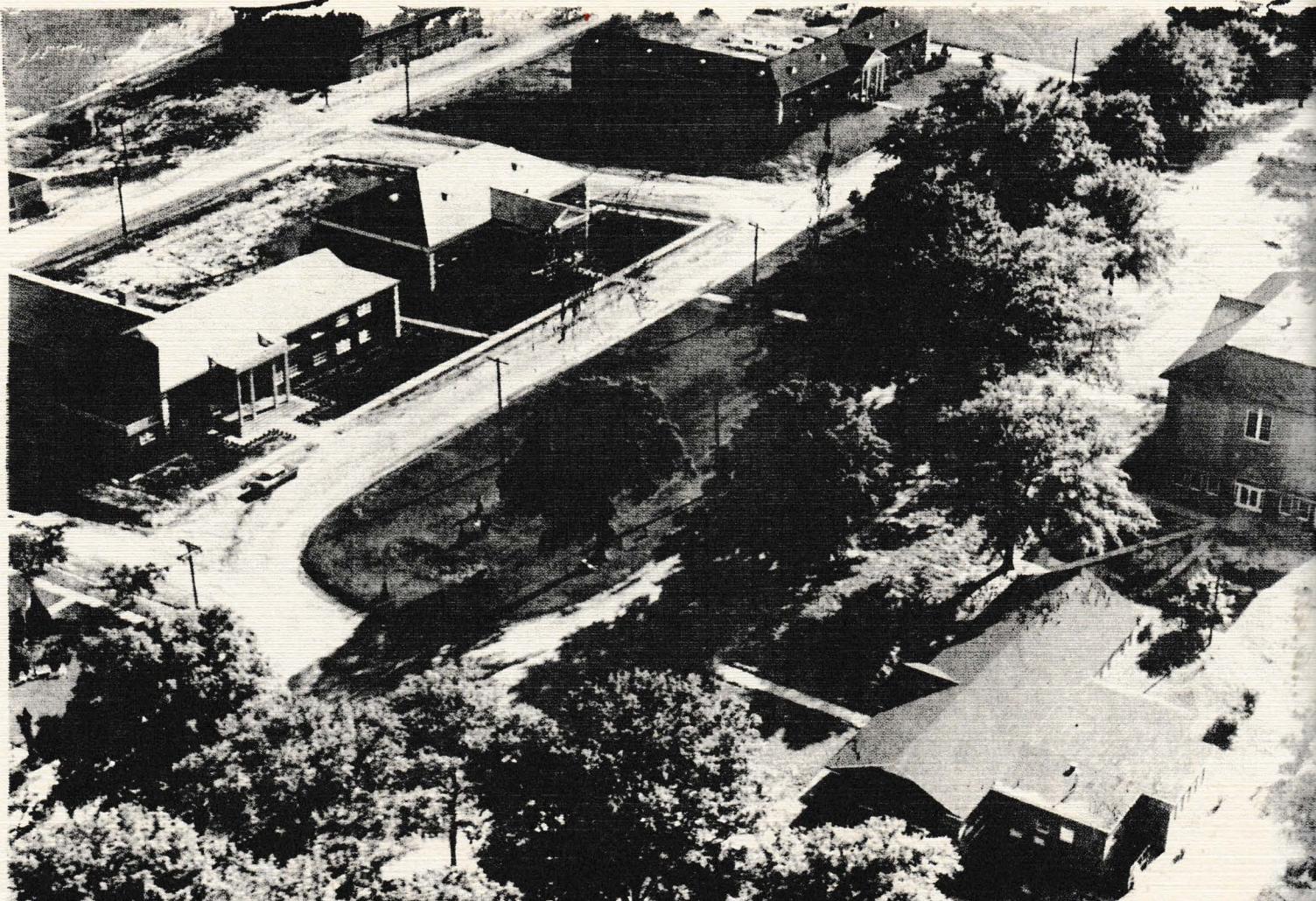
## *Administration and Faculty*

WILLIAM LOWREY COMPERE—President	MRS. ALICE COX—Librarian
THERMAN V. BRYANT—Dean, Registrar, and Assistant to President	WILLIAM BRYCE EVANS—Speech
JOE BAKER—Manager, Business Office	THOMAS LAFAYETTE EVERETT—Science and Athletics
J. B. COSTILOW—B. S. U. Director	MRS. DOROTHY GILBERT HICKS—English
MRS. A. L. McGAUGH—Dean of Women	ARLESS JACKSON—Commerce and Dean of Men
MRS. T. L. EVERETT—Dietitian	LANDER GRESHAM KEE—Music and Chorus
MISS GERALDINE SHEHAN—Secretary to President	MRS. MARY FARRELL KEE—English
RAYMOND ABERNATHY—Education	ALLIE LEE McGAUGH—Mathematics and Biology
JOHN FRANKLIN CARTER—Bible	ODIE PASCAL MOORE—Bible
JAMES LEWIS CLARK—Social Science	MRS. FRANCES W. TOWNSEND—Music
PRENTISS G. COX—Science	MISS JOE ALLYNE WESSON—English

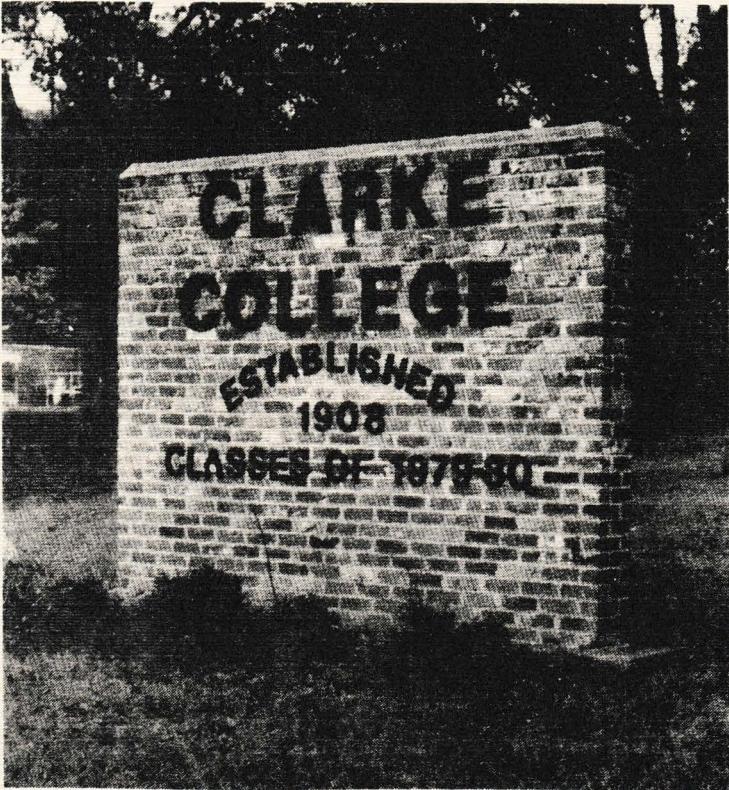
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	MR. FRED MOORE Morton, Mississippi





# ECHOES



from  
**Clarke College**

# ECHOES

Fall 1991

Clarke College

Volume I

## From the Alumni Office

*Echoes From Clarke College* was created to be a tool of communication from Clarke college to the Alumni and Friends, and from Alumni to Alumni. Every Clarke student has made his or her contribution to the rich history of our College. We at Clarke want you to know that great things are still happening here. We also want to help you keep in touch with each other by presenting articles about Alumni and their accomplishments. You can help us in this task by writing an article about yourself and your life after leaving Clarke; give us permission to print it in *Echoes*.

Biographical information we need from you is:

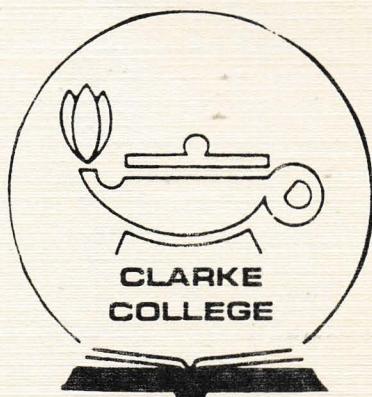
Name, Address, Educational Background, Work Experience, Honors Received, Family Members, Testimony, and Pictures.

We are looking forward to hearing from many of you.

Marian Thornton  
Alumni Director

## Statement Concerning Funding

This first issue of *Echoes From Clarke College* has been privately funded by an individual. If you would like to see this publication continued and desire future copies for yourself, please send you name and a donation of \$5.00 to Clarke College Alumni Office, P. O. Box 440, Newton, MS 39345.



Clarke College is a Division of Mississippi College

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**Purpose:** Communication with Clarke College Alumni and Friends; information about the College, Administration, Instructors, Staff, and Students; information about Alumni.

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**Editor:** Marian Thornton, Alumni Director

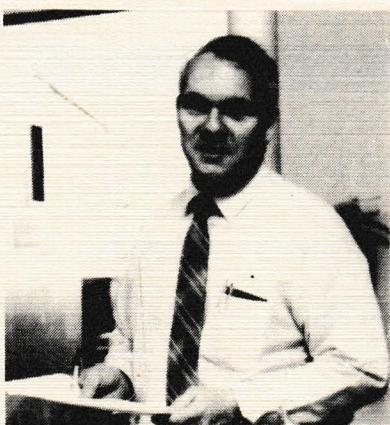
**Layout and Design:** Dr. John E. Dent, Jr.

**Typist:** Joy Munn

**Photography:** Peggy Brock

## How Do You Measure Success?

By Dr. Jim Read



Clarke College is in its eighty-third year of offering Christian higher education to Mississippi Baptists (the oldest junior college in Mississippi). During most of those eighty-three years, as it has been doing this academic year, Clarke has been in a struggle to survive. Clarke College has almost always had too few students, too small an endowment, and too little revenue. By the standards the secular world sets for colleges, these factors would relegate Clarke to the category of being a failure. **So why do we say that Clarke College is a success** in the light of these facts? We say so because of three reasons. **First, Clarke College has remained true to its founders' purpose for creating the College. Second, Clarke College has remained true to its supporting denomination's causes. Third, Clarke College has remained true to its responsibility in carrying out the Great Commission.**

Clarke College's purpose, as defined in the 1914 *Clarke College Catalog*, was to, "aim at making scholarships thoroughly in Christian character," to enable the student who passed through Clarke, "whatever profession they may choose, we desire them to carry to those various professions Christian characters which shall mold and shape civic and political life, as well as religious life." By making opportunities available to its students for Christian growth

through Chapel services, Mission Emphasis Week, Spiritual Emphasis Week, Baptist Student Union, Ministerial Association, Baptist Young Women and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Clarke College has through the years encouraged its students to become *doing* Christians, who integrate their faith into every aspect of their lives.

Clarke College has furthered the cause of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention through its annual participation in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions (which began in the mid-1950's), by its annual collection of funds to support B.S.U. Summer Missionaries (many of whom have come from Clarke), by inviting Mississippi Baptist Convention leaders, Southern Baptist Convention leaders, and Southern Baptist Convention missionaries to address Clarke College students in behalf of Convention causes, and by encouraging its students, both ministerial and non-ministerial, to support the Cooperative Program and Convention-wide efforts at spreading the Gospel.

Clarke College has supported the Great Commission by preparing and sending out over one thousand pastors, over one hundred missionaries and thousands of informed, involved, active Baptist lay people that have promoted the Great Commission in Mississippi, in the United States, and throughout the world. Many of these Clarke graduates have gone on to occupy important positions of leadership in the Mississippi Baptist Convention and in the Southern Baptist Convention.

For these three reasons, we who are in the Clarke College Family consider Clarke College a

success, not by the secular standards that this writer mentioned at the beginning of this article, but rather by the standards of the one who said, "**Well done thou good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of thy Lord**" (**Matthew 25:21**). Clarke has been and is that "**good and faithful servant**" and its reward is great because it has entered, "**into the joy**" of our Lord. This is **GENUINE SUCCESS** because it is **DIVINELY AND ETERNALLY DEFINED AND REWARDED**.



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# A History Of Clarke College

Clarke College grew out of an idea that East Mississippi needed a Baptist institution of higher learning. This was first publicly expressed at the General Association Meeting of Mississippi Baptists in 1907. The death of Rev. N.L. Clarke in 1906, who had been an influential Baptist minister in East Mississippi, spurred the movement to establish a Baptist College in East Mississippi. The Mt. Pisgah Association was first to go on record as being in favor of establishing such an institution. A number of rallies were held in the interest of Baptist higher education in 1907. The climax of these rallies was a rally at the Newton First Baptist Church in October, 1907, that selected a committee to choose the site for a Baptist college in East Mississippi and a Board of Trustees to operate the college.

The formal opening of Clarke Memorial College occurred on October 1, 1908.

The town of Newton launched a major effort to secure the proposed college, establishing a committee to raise funds to build the college and another committee to secure a Newton site. Despite competition from towns in the areas, Newton was chosen the site for the Baptist college at a meeting of area Baptists in November, 1907, mainly due to the fact that it was on a railroad crossing and it had a healthful site. The college building committee met on April 16, 1908, and let contracts from construction of three buildings. The formal opening of Clarke Memorial College occurred on October 1, 1908.

Under President S.B. Culpepper, Clarke enrolled 114 students its first session. The second session

(1909) enrolled 148. By the third session, enrollment was up to 200; but Clarke was deeply in debt, badly needing contributions. In 1911 a committee met to coordinate Clarke College and Mississippi College's academic programs. In 1913 S.B. Culpepper was succeeded as president by M.P. Bush, who served as acting president until M.O. Patterson took the office.

This rapid turnover in chief administrative officers and Clarke's financial difficulties led to uncertainty about Clarke's future. In December, 1913, Clarke College's Board of Trustees requested that the college be turned over to the Mississippi Baptist State Convention.

In 1913 Clarke College was turned over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention as a junior college.

At a 1913 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention this request was granted on the condition that the college be only a junior college designed to feed the Baptist senior colleges in the state. It retained its secondary department. Clarke still was laboring under a \$25,000 debt. In March, 1915, M.O. Patterson resigned as president and was succeeded by R.A. Venable who served only one year. T.A.J. Beasley was asked to accept the position, but, on his refusal to accept the office, Bryan Simmons was chosen. From 1908 to 1930 there were ten presidents. During that period, enrollment continued to grow. During the early 1920's Clarke received \$12,500 from the Southern Baptist Churches' \$75,000 Campaign with the stipulation the Board of Trustees raise an

additional \$2,500. In 1926 the Standardization Committee of the Mississippi State Department of Education visited the Clarke campus and certified them as an accredited junior college.

In 1926 Clarke became an accredited junior college.

The mid and late 1920's were difficult economic times for Clarke College with it being \$35,000 in debt by the late 1920's.

A joint meeting of the Clarke Board of Trustees and the Education Commission agreed to raise additional funds if Newton would also raise funds; but at a special meeting at the Mississippi Baptist Convention there was a vote taken to close Clarke College. There was such a local outcry to respond to the decision, that another special session was called which rescinded the previous action (July 15, 1930). That special session also agreed to liquidate Clarke's \$40,000 debt and borrow money to fund Clarke's operation. However, at the regular session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that year, there was another vote to close Clarke College. A group of East Mississippi Baptists sought to lease Clarke College for five years. This was agreed to by the Board of Trustees on April 13, 1931.

Clarke College remained a state accredited institution under the Clarke College Holding Commission. S.L. Stringer was chosen as president; but in 1935 he was succeeded by Dr. C.Z. Holland. On April 16, 1937 the college was leased to W.A. McMullan, who served as president from 1937 to 1938. In 1940 W.L. McMullan surrendered the charter and lease to Freeman E. May.

Freeman May served as president from 1940 to 1942. When he resigned J.L. Boyde of Meridian was elected president.

During the 1930's and early 1940's Clarke was operated by a holding company.

Clarke began to increase its academic offerings for returning World War II veterans. As a result Clarke began emerging from the difficult times of the Great Depression, and there was a move to return Clarke to the control of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In 1945 control of Clarke College was returned to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The same year W.E. Greene was chosen as president of Clarke College, serving in that capacity until 1954. During those years, Clarke's enrollment reached 400-500 students.

In 1945 control of Clarke College was returned to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Also in 1952 Clarke College received its initial accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Deficit spending led to a change in the administration in 1954, with W.L. Green being replaced by Lowery Compere who served as president from January, 1955 to 1977. During the Compere administration the present women's dormitory, men's dormitory, Science building and Fine Arts building were constructed. Also the sub-collegiate program was dropped during the Compere administration.

In the mid 1960's and into the 1970's; however, deficits began to occur as enrollment dropped and the college began to cover these deficits by spending quasi-endowed funds.

In 1976 the word "Memorial" was dropped from the college's name.

In 1976 the college's charter was amended to change its name to Clarke College, omitting the word "Memorial." In 1977 Dr. Compere retired and Dr. S.L. Harris became president. Harris served only eighteen months and was succeeded by Dr. A.C. Johnson (1979-81).

In the fall of 1980 Clarke College's Board of Trustees, facing the problems of decreasing enrollment and annual deficits, which were rapidly depleting the quasi-endowed fund, believed Clarke was in danger of closing. Clarke College's Board of Trustees went to the Baptist State Education Commission with the problem and the Education Commission recommended in November, 1980, that Clarke College be transferred to the control of Mississippi College.

On August 1, 1981, the Mississippi Baptist Convention officially transferred the operation and administration of Clarke College to the Mississippi College Board of Trustees. Under the plan, Clarke College lost its independent board of trustees and its president.

In 1981 Clarke College became a Division of Mississippi College.

All of Clarke's property was transferred to the Mississippi

College Board of Trustees. Income from Clarke's endowed fund would go for Clarke's use only. Clarke College would become an integral part of Mississippi College, though Clarke was expected to pay its own operating costs.

The union of Clarke College with Mississippi College has now been in existence for ten years. The nature of the relationship was not clearly defined by the document mandating the union, so any definition has come by "custom" and "usage." What has emerged cannot be described as a real "merger," but rather it is a partial merger of administration and financial operations, while academics, student support services, and alumni affairs have remained separate.

Clarke College Presidents

1908 - 12	S.B. Culpepper
1912 - 13	L.G. Gates
1913 - 15	M.O. Patterson
1915 - 16	R.A. Venable
1916 - 18	Bryan Simmons
1918 - 20	T.A.J. Beasley
1920 - 23	John F. Carter
1923 - 29	H.T. McLaurin
1929 - 30	W.T. Lowrey
1930 - 31	John F. Carter
1931 - 32	A.A. Roebuck
1932 - 35	S.L. Stringer
1935 - 37	C.Z. Holland
1937 - 40	W.L. McMullan
1940 - 41	Freeman S. May
1942 - 44	J.L. Boyd
1944 - 54	W.E. Greene
1955 - 77	W. Lowery Compere
1977 - 79	S.L. Harris
1979 - 81	A.C. Johnson
1981 -	Dr. Lewis Nobles

## Clarke College 1991-92 Faculty And Staff

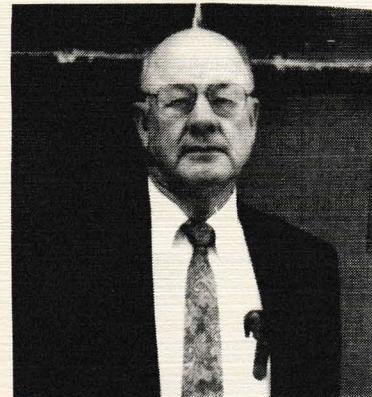
Adams, Clark (JoAnn) - Music  
Adams, Nell - Music  
Alexander, Linda - History/Girls' Dorm Director  
Armstrong, Dorothy (Andy) - Art  
Brock, Peggy - Public Relations/Receptionist  
Burt, Bryan (Mary) - Student Services Director/Baseball Coach  
Burt, Mary (Bryan) - Admissions Clerk  
Clark, Gloria - Chemistry  
Craven, Dr. Albert (Peggy) - Business  
Dent, Dr. John (Jerrie) - Greek & New Testament/MC @ Clarke Coordinator  
Dent, Jerrie (John) - Registrar/Book Store Manager  
Everett, Michael (Sandy) - Sociology  
Ford, Sue (Daryl) - Math/Computer Science  
Gibbon, Lucille (Billy) - Dietician  
Gressett, Larry (Terry) - Psychology  
Hardy, Jeff (Jeanette) - Piano Prep  
Harmon, Dr. Frank (Nancy) - Pastoral Ministries  
Harrison, Frankie (Dan) - Nurse  
Hart, Sally (James) - Business Manager  
Hollingsworth, Gail (David) - Financial Clerk  
Hollingsworth, Hubert (Marie) - Director of Plant Maintenance  
Kelly, Cathy (O'Neal) - Cashier  
Martin, Allen (Jymmie) - Mens' Dorm Director  
Mason, George (Zelle) - Science/Biology  
Melton, Dr. Charles (Vera) - Religious Education  
Miley, Wayne - Director of Admissions & Recruiting  
Munn, Joy (Don) - Secretary to the Dean/Intramural Director  
Read, Dr. James (Sandy) - Dean of the College  
Ruddick, Eddie (Fay) - Old Testament, Department of Religion  
Salley, Jerry (Shirley) - Basketball Coach/Physical Education  
Savell, Lynn (Mark) - English  
Sharp, Wil (Terry) - Economics  
Thornton, Marian (Milton) - Alumni Director/Prep Piano  
Tramill, Dr. Stephen (Paulette) - Anatomy & Physiology  
Valentine, Kelton - Accounts Payable Clerk  
West, Juanita - Speech  
White, Lawrence (Dayna) - BSU Director  
Williams, Evelyn (Bill) - Director of Financial Aid  
Williams, Juan (Hillman) - Developmental Courses  
Ziegler, Joyce (Nathan) - Librarian

## New Faculty

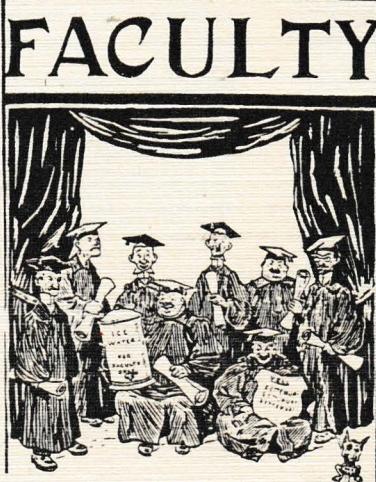
### Clarke Alumnus Returns As Faculty Member

Mr. George Mason, Class of 1950, returned to the Clarke Campus as physical science and biology teacher for the 1991-92 school session. Mr. Mason has an impressive background of teaching in high schools and junior colleges in Mississippi, as well as serving as a graduate assistant at Mississippi State University.

Mr. Mason was born in Newton County and attended Newton Public Schools. After high school graduation, he spent some time in the Navy and returned home to attend Clarke from 1948 to 1950. After leaving Clarke, he earned a B.A. Degree at Mississippi College and a Master's Degree in Biology at Mississippi State, where he worked as a graduate assistant. After teaching in various schools and colleges, he began a 31 year period of service as Biology instructor at East Central Community College in Decatur. In May of 1991, Mr. Mason retired at East Central.



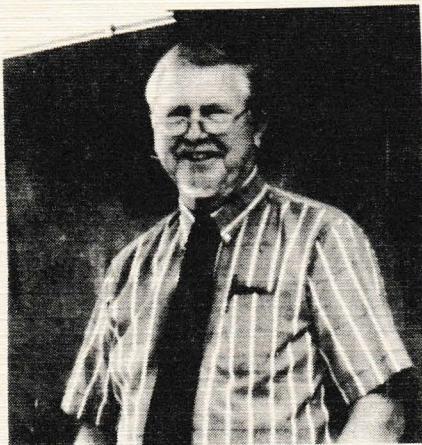
George and his wife Zelle live on a farm in the Newton area. They have two daughters, Georgia, who is deceased, and Marcia, who is Mrs. Randy Garner. He stated that his brothers, Harold and Howard, and sister, Jean Rives also attended Clarke and that he is happy to be a part of his Alma Mater.



## New Faculty

### Craven Appointed As Accounting Teacher

**D**r. Albert Lee Craven, Jr. of Lake, MS was appointed as Professor of Accounting at Clarke for the 1991-92 session. He recently retired as Professor of Accounting at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, where he had served since 1972.



**D**r. Craven is a native of Newton County having graduated from Lake High School. His education continued with a B.A. Degree from Louisiana College, a Master's of Business Degree from the University of Mississippi and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Accounting, Economics, and Finance from the University of Alabama. In addition to teaching at Mississippi College, the University of Mississippi, and Appalachian State University, Dr. Craven has worked as Consultant to Burlington Industries, Inc., Hardie's Investment Group, North Carolina Savings and Loan League, Mississippi State Medical Association, the Economic Development Administration and the Mississippi Research and Development Center. He holds membership in various professional organizations and has had six selected articles published.

**D**r. Craven and his wife, Peggy, have seven children: Jon (deceased), Peggy, Melinda (deceased), Anita, Brian, Laura, and Paul.

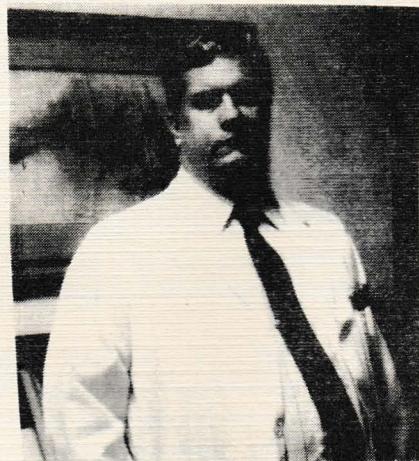
**C**larke College is fortunate to have Dr. Craven on the Faculty.



## New Faculty

### Local Physician Joins Clarke Faculty

**N**ot many Junior College students have the privilege of studying Anatomy and Physiology courses with a licensed physician as the teacher! Perhaps in the presence of so much knowledge and training, the students in Dr. Stephen Tramill's classes feel that their questions may sound as silly as the Disney Character, Bugs Bunny, when he says, "What's Up, Doc?"



**D**r. Stephen A. Tramill was born in Oakland, CA and attended James Madison High School in San Diego, CA. His undergraduate degrees were received at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA and McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. He received a Doctorate in Osteopathy from Southeastern School of Osteopathic Medicine in N. Miami Beach, FL.

**D**r. Tramill has had a variety of employment opportunities such as Analytical Chemist, Nurses' Aide, Research Assistant, Insurance Examiner, and Intern. He served in the United States Army, Active Reserve from 1968 to 1977, seeing a year of active duty in Vietnam and a year in South Korea. He received seven Decorations: Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, eighteen (18) combat air medals, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Senior Aviator Badge and a Recommendation for Silver Star Medal. His highest rank in the military is Chief Warrant Officer.

**D**r. Tramill and his wife, Paulette, have three children, Stephanie, Megan, and Christopher, who attend Newton Public Schools.

**D**r. Tramill is on the staff of Rush Hospital, Newton and has a private family practice with his office located in the hospital. He states in his resume that: "An ideal practice would be dealing with general medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, geriatrics, and sports medicine." He has found all of this in the town of Newton, MS. In addition, he has time to teach at Clarke!

## New Faculty

# Salley Hired As Basketball Coach

Mr. Jerry Salley of Minden, LA has assumed the coaching duties of both the men's and women's basketball teams at Clarke for the 1991-92 season. He comes to Clarke with a wealth of experience, having had head coaching jobs at several high schools in Louisiana and a junior college in Arkansas.



Coach Salley's childhood was spent in Pleasant Hill, LA. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1961, where he was selected All-State three times and was Louisiana's Mr. Basketball as a senior. He went to Nicholls State in Thibodeaux, LA and received a B.S. Degree in 1966. His M.A. Degree was received from Northeast Louisiana University, in 1970.

Salley's coaching experience was received at Crowville, Mansfield, Pelican, Riverdale Academy, Martin, and Minden. During his career, he has had sixteen basketball teams reach the Louisiana State quarterfinals. Nine of his high school years were at Riverdale Academy, where his teams won four state championships and were state runners-up twice. His team at Southern Arkansas University, El Dorado Junior College finished third in the Arkansas State tournament.

Jerry Salley comes from a family who is thoroughly Southern Baptist.

His dad is a Baptist preacher, his brother, Allison, is a Music Director in Ft. Worth, TX and his brother, Bob, is Director for Baptist Men's Association for the Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis, TN. Jerry states that as a young person, he did not want to be called to do God's work because he couldn't sing and didn't want to preach. Time and experience has shown him God needs coaches too.

Coach Salley's home is in Minden, LA where his wife, Shirley, teaches in Duberly Elementary School. They have two sons, Jerry, Jr. age 28 who is a computer technician in Memphis and Brian, age 16 who is a junior in Minden High School. Rather than up-root his family at this time, Jerry commutes home for weekends and holidays.

The Clarke Coach's testimony about his newly adopted school is:

*I believe God had a reason for allowing me to come to Clarke. I felt welcomed and found the people friendly and warm on my first visit. I've been happier here at Clarke than I've been in a long time!*

*I do not believe being a Christian is a hindrance to being an athlete, nor do I believe being an athlete hinders one from being a Christian.*

Coach Salley arrived at Clarke with his sleeves rolled up and tools in his hand! As a result of his leadership and work, the gymnasium has a new face lift and space has been cleared on the campus for a new driving range. If you come to the campus to look for him, he may pass by swiftly and silently in his electric golf cart to his next project!

## Adjunct Faculty

# NHS Teachers

Mrs. Gloria Clark of Toomsuba, MS, teacher of Chemistry at Newton High School and Mr. Larry Gressett of Conehatta, MS, Counselor at Newton High School were selected as Adjunct Faculty Members at Clarke for the 1991-92 session.



Mrs. Clark received her education at Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC, and Mississippi State University, Meridian Branch. She taught chemistry at Embry Riddle Aer. University, was employed as a chemist in Moore County, NC, and served as a research associate at the University of Hawaii. Along with her teaching duties at Newton High School, she teaches a chemistry course at Clarke.

Mr. Gressett is a graduate of East Central Community College in Decatur, MS, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS, and has done graduate work at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. He was employed at Clarke as a coach, at East Central as a coach and psychology instructor, at Moss Point schools as vocational counselor, and is presently serving as counselor at Newton High School. He is teaching a psychology course at Clarke.



## Newton and Clarke College Horse and Carriage?

*Love and marriage,  
Love and marriage,  
Go together like a horse & carriage!*

**S**o croons the pop song from the 50's! This might well describe the relationship that Clarke College and the Town of Newton have experienced since Clarke was founded. It is interesting to note in the *History of Clarke*, included in this issue, that "the town of Newton launched a major effort to secure the proposed college, establishing a committee to raise funds to build the college and another to secure a Newton site. Despite competition from towns in the area, Newton was chosen the site for the Baptist College at a meeting of area Baptists in November, 1907, mainly due to the fact that it was on a railroad crossing and it had a healthful site."

**N**ewton has not failed Clarke, nor has Clarke failed Newton in the 83 years of their relationship. The two following articles appeared in recent issues of the *Newton Record*, a weekly newspaper which describes the union of Clarke and Newton:

### What Does Clarke College Mean To Newton? By: Jim Read

**W**ith Clarke College's status with the Southern Association of Schools (S.A.C.S.) being in question, a situation which threatens Clarke College's very existence, it may be well to look at just what Clarke College means to Newton.

**F**irst, Clarke College means Money to Newton. Clarke College's total 1990-91 budget was \$1,300,000. Of that amount, \$556,353 went for salaries for the thirty-three full and part-time employees at Clarke College and the twelve adjunct instructors who taught at Clarke College. These

employees and the approximately 160 students who attended Clarke College during the 1990-91 academic year spent thousands of dollars in Newton businesses.

**S**econd, Clarke College means Service to Newton. Clarke College's faculty offered continuing education courses in subjects that ranged from Bible to computing science to Newtonians. The Clarke College Fine Arts Building auditorium has hosted events that include: beauty pageants, dance recitals, piano recitals, concerts, and the productions of the Newton Little Theater. The Clarke College Piano Preparatory Program serves approximately seventy youth from Newton and Newton County. The Newton Public Schools hold their annual pre-school in-service training in the air-conditioned classroom buildings on the Clarke College campus. The Clarke College baseball field has been the home field for the Newton High School baseball team before the new high school baseball field was constructed and is still the home of Newton's Babe Ruth Baseball team, which won the state championship last summer.

**T**hird, Clarke College means Prestige for Newton. Not every town in Mississippi has a college. Clarke College, for the last eighty-three years, has operated in Newton. When people think of Clarke College, they also think of Newton. When families and industrial leaders think of locating in Newton, they are enticed by the fact that Newton has its own college.

**T**hese three assets (Money, Service, and Prestige) are gained by Newton from Clarke College, but they will be lost to Newton if Clarke College is forced to close.



### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Clarke College was founded in Newton, Mississippi in the year 1908; and

WHEREAS, over the eighty-three years of its existence Clarke College has made a meaningful contribution to the education and well being of thousands of Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, Clarke College has always been a source of pride to the people of the City of Newton and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Clarke College contributes in a very significant way to the social, cultural and economic well being of this community and all of east central Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the contribution of the fine service rendered by this institution is of utmost importance to the future of this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Newton, Mississippi that we do hereby wholeheartedly support Clarke College in its efforts to continue its service as an educational institution.

RESOLVED, this the 2nd day of July, 1991.

TERRY C. BURTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

GERALDINE SEAL, CITY CLERK

## B.S.U. Summer Missionaries Share Experiences

*Culture Shock!* was a key word used again and again by the four student summer missionaries from Clarke who were chosen to represent the State Baptist Student Union in various mission points last summer. They were featured in Chapel at Clarke on Wednesday, September 11th as they gave a report of their experience.

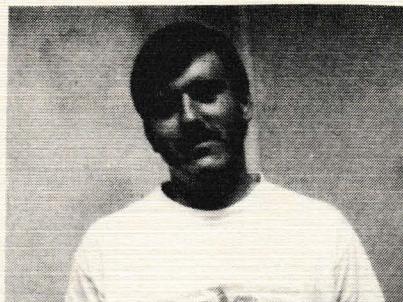
**Jennifer Conrad** of Union, MS, a 1991 graduate of Clarke, was assigned to Inner-City Missions in Chicago, Illinois. Her home-base church had approximately forty members of all cultures and races.



She spoke of the adjustment she had to make to accept all types of people: the homeless, the jobless, the hungry and the abused. Jennifer claimed Deut. 10:17-20 to help her show no partiality to anyone. She stated that sometimes those serving on mission fields are thought to be super-human because of their ability to cope. She found that missionaries are ordinary people that the Lord calls and equips for the task.

**David Thurman**, Sophomore at Clarke was selected to serve in Hawaii. The blending of different cultures in one location was nothing new to David, since he was born in Bangladesh as the son of Baptist Foreign Missionaries. What was new to him was the realization that now he was the missionary with an awesome responsibility to God and to the people! He claimed Proverbs 3:56 as his verse to cling to. He states that experiences of the

summer opened his eyes anew to the meaning of "Missions" and how he feels that God is calling him to Foreign Missions as a life's work.



David's parents are Rev. and Mrs. Thomas E. Thurman who are serving in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Rev. Thurman attended Clarke College in 1951-1953.

**Jon Fancher** of Alabaster, AL and Ronnie Pannell of Gulfport were sent to the same association in Sacramento, CA. Jon spoke of the variety of activities they were involved in such as summer camp for pre-teens, V.B.S., Backyard Bible Clubs, helping to organize three churches, and serving three churches at one time.



An adjustment he had to make was the informal type of worship services they participated in with live bands, chorus singing, drama, 15-minute sermons, and very informal dress. Jon who claimed Romans 8:28 as his Scripture considers the summer's work his greatest growing experience.

---

*The Lord doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called!* --Jennifer Conrad

**Ronnie Pannell** began his report by quoting some facts about California:

- 30 million people
- 26 million unchurched
- 60 ethnic groups
- 100 dialects & languages
- 1,306 Southern Baptist Congregations

He reviewed how God had worked in leading him to volunteer for summer missions, how He had strengthened him when his faith was challenged and how He moved in a mighty way the last two weeks of the summer. Ronnie challenged



the student body to pray and consider investing their lives in mission work next summer and as a life's work if the Lord calls.



**BAPTIST  
STUDENT UNION  
SUMMER MISSIONS**



## Clarke College Librarian Serves in Hungary

**W**hat an exciting day May 30th was for Mrs. Joyce Brinkley Ziegler, Librarian at Clarke College! That was the day that she boarded a plane for Budapest, Hungary to become a volunteer missionary from June 1 - 30.



**J**oyce received the appointment under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Volunteer Program. She was assigned to work in the Library of the International Baptist Lay Academy, processing books and training library personnel.

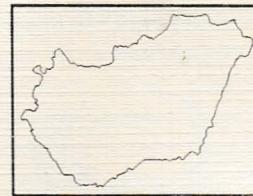
**T**he new International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest is sponsored by the European Baptist Federation, Hungarian Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The school provides basic Christian training to lay persons and bi-vocational pastors from throughout Eastern Europe. Students from every Eastern European country except Albania attended classes last summer.

**T**he Academy and the Hungarian Baptist Seminary share the same building which was partially funded by the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and volunteer construction teams from America.

**W**hile in Hungary, Mrs. Ziegler met volunteer construction workers from the States, seven journeymen and four missionary

couples. Those with Mississippi ties are Dr. Errol and Mary (Ishee) Simmons, David and Lynda (Sneed) Bodenheimer and Melanie Bynum, journeyman from Pisgah. Dr. Simmons is Administrator of the Lay Academy and Mary is the bookkeeper/accountant. The Bodenheimers are now in language school and will be teaching the Adult Bible Study. Melanie teaches English in the public schools, along with her assigned duties at the Academy. This is Melanie's second time in Hungary, her first time was as a B.S.U. Missionary in 1989. Joyce also enjoyed meeting the 1991 B.S.U. Missionaries serving in Hungary, seven of whom were from Canada and two from South Carolina.

**J**oyce recently gave a slide presentation on Southern Baptist work in Hungary to the Women of Clarke Organization.



Hungary

She described the country as beautiful, the food as delicious, the people as friendly and sincere, the church music as beautiful. She visited several church services and spoke of excitement of being with people who are experiencing their first taste of freedom since World War II. She stated that in the churches, there was Sunday School for the children and young people, but none for the adults. The adults spent the hour in prayer and then after the Sermon, there would be another prayer meeting.

**M**rs. Ziegler was asked some difficult questions, for the

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

Matthew 28:19-20

Hungarian Christians were curious about American Christians. One Baptist Pastor asked her the following questions:

- Do American Christians witness like the Bible tells us to?
- Why are there so many different kinds of Baptists in America?
- Why don't all the different kinds of Baptists meet together?

**M**rs. Ziegler is available to churches in the area that would like to see her presentation



Give To God Through  
The Lottie Moon Offering  
For Foreign Missions

Of particular interest is the fact that Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money helps to support the work in Hungary.



# What's Up The Alumni Sleeve?

You have an Alumni Office in the Administration Building at Clarke, packed with yearbooks from 1915 to 1991, memorabilia of all kinds such as pictures, books, records - and memories, memories, memories! Come to the campus and remember!

You have a proposed slate of Alumni Officers for 1991-1992:

- President: Rev. Walter Ballard  
DOM Panola County  
Batesville, MS 38608

- Vice-Pres.: Rev. Glen Shows  
First Baptist Church  
Greenwood, MS 38930

- Secretary: Mrs. Marian Thornton  
Clarke College Alumni Director  
P.O. Box 440  
Newton, MS 39345

- Past-Pres.: Rev. Leon Holley  
Vaiden Baptist Church  
Vaiden, MS 39176

- Alumni Area Representatives:  
(to be named)

**Stand behind them and fill in the "gaps"!**

Come to the Clarke College Alumni Breakfast at the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church of Jackson. Special features:

- Memory tables
- A video tape of 1991 Clarke Choir performing on tour
- Students to sing solos.

Clarke College Choir Reunion, (Years of 1971-1991), planned for Homecoming and Preview Day, Saturday, December 7, with an Alumni Choir Performance in the Morning Service. Choir members should come on Saturday morning for a rehearsal from 9:45 to 10:45.

Other Reunions "stewing in the pot": Classes of 1959, 1960, 1961, (initiated by Mrs. Ina Patterson Weekly of Mobile, Alabama) and Class of 1967, (initiated by Charles (Chick) Brown of Tuscaloosa, Alabama).



## Alumni Nostalgia

Strange things begin to happen to former students of Clarke College when they drive to the campus after being away for several years! What they thought would be a casual visit to their Alma Mater became a "trip down Memory Lane." Their actual presence on the campus brought back many memories of their Clarke days.

During the summer, several Alumni came to the campus and visited the Alumni Room, where memorabilia such as yearbooks, pictures, choir programs and graduation programs have been collected. The most common phrases coined while looking through the annuals were: "Oh, look! Here is \_\_\_\_\_! I wonder where he is now?" or "We need to plan a Reunion of my class!"

JoAnne Kneitel Williford, Class of 1966, and her husband Les Williford of Brewton, Alabama came to the campus to visit with friends, look at annuals, and reminisce about experiences at Clarke.

After graduation from Clarke, JoAnne attended William Carey College and upon graduation, settled in Brewton, where she is employed as a physical education teacher in the Brewton City Schools.

Charles (Chick) Brown, Class of 1967 came to the campus to begin plans for a Reunion of the 1967 class. Charles is Field Representative of Woodman of the World Fraternity in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and is a loyal supporter of Clarke College.

Don and Margie Palmer Moore, (Class of 1960) from High Point, NC were visiting relatives in the Newton area and came to the campus for a "casual" visit. This visit became more extended than planned as they looked through annuals and "remembered"! Their visit even led to their appearance in a Chapel service at Clarke in October.

Rev. Leon Holley, Pastor of Vaiden Baptist Church and Rev. Walter Ballard, Director of Missions in Panola County, both from the Class of 1962, were on the campus for an Alumni Officers' Planning Meeting in August. Bro. Ballard stated that being on the campus and looking at the pictures of his former classmates stirred up memories and loyalty to Clarke College.

Perhaps you should plan a trip to your Alma Mater!



## Andy's Special Love

When a person becomes a Senior Citizen and enters the retirement phase of life, everyone expects him or her to "take it easy"! Not so with Mrs. Lucille Bounds Brantley, a 1937 Clarke graduate and a member of the 50-Year Club! Mrs. Brantley realized a teenage ambition when her first book was published in the Spring of 1991.



Mrs. Brantley, a native of Newton, MS attended Newton Public Schools and upon high school graduation, entered Clarke College and received an Associate Degree from Clarke. She soon married A.L. Brantley of Newton and for many years worked with her husband in his retail grocery and meat market in Newton, as well as raising their two daughters, Ann and Cindy.

Mrs. Brantley remained interested in writing all through those years. In fact, her high school English teacher at Newton, Miss Evelyn Steadman, recognized and encouraged her writing talent, as Lucille handed in original stories and poems required in the classes. She had the desire and talent to write for posterity, but until a grandson, Andy Wright, came along, the special inspiration was missing. Watching Andy's antics, curiosity and love of life, Mrs. Brantley saw stories about a small boy visiting Grandaddy's

farm began to form and the book, *Andy's Special Love* took shape. Mrs. Brantley states that in the book, she drew from her own personal experience as well as Andy's. Since she came from a large family of nine children and had a grandmother who loved to entertain children, she had a rich heritage of childhood experiences.

Mrs. Brantley has been a loyal supporter of Clarke College through the years and seldom misses a 50-Year Club meeting. She has presented the Alumni Office with a personal picture of a group of the 1937 Graduation Class. She has also placed a copy of her first published book, *Andy's Special Love*, in the Alumni Room for the 50-Year Club.

## "On The Road Again!"

Don and Margie Moore harmonize in a beautiful duet as they travel throughout the United States in a Ministry of Encouragement! Actually, Don ministers through music and Margie ministers through the spoken word.



Donald Moore and Margie Palmer Moore met at Clarke College as students in 1958 and were married on December 28, 1959. From Clarke, Don attended Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He served churches throughout Mississippi and Louisiana as Minister of music from 1958-1977. He then heard God's call to Evangelistic Music Ministry where he served until 1981. Don states that he and his family had a wilderness type experience the next four years as he worked as a Classification Officer at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

In 1985 he was again called into the Music Ministry of a church for four years. After that he and Margie organized the Don Moore Concert Ministries located in High Point, North Carolina, where they have served the Lord in a Concert Evangelistic Ministry until the present time.

Don and Margie have three children, Lisa, Richard, and Lara. Since the children are now adults, Margie enjoys traveling with Don on his singing engagements and leading groups in Bible Study and testimony. They call their ministry, "a Ministry of Encouragement to the body of Christ and they go to churches of all denominations, nursing homes, prisons, and anywhere they have the opportunity. One of their most unusual services occurred at a black church which met on the front porch of a home. Their only accompaniment for group singing was "home made" percussion, such as a rub-board and metal scrap and two pieces of metal click together. This percussion section even accompanied Don as he sang with tapes.

The Clarke faculty, staff, and student body were privileged to enjoy Don and Margie in a Chapel service Wednesday, October 1991. In turn, Don and Margie consider it a blessing to return to the place where their life together began!

# Alumnus Leads Chapel Service

**S**tudy to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15. This was the advice that Rev. James Parker, Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Selma, Alabama, gave to the Clarke College students in a Chapel service on Wednesday, October 22nd.

**A**fter working for five years making cast iron pipe, James heard the call of God to the ministry and began looking for a college to help him prepare. Upon recommendation of their pastor, Dr. Reginald Stokes, who was a Clarke alumnus, James and his wife Deborah Carol came to Clarke in 1971. He spoke to the students about the good foundation he received at Clarke and how it helped to stabilize his life when trials came and his faith was tested. He listed Dr. John Carter, Dr. O.P. Moore, Dr. Charles Melton, and Dr. Paul Brown as teachers who influenced him the most.

**U**pon reflection of his Clarke days, James reminded the students to apply themselves, for they were not only preparing for life, they are now living it. "Don't just study about being a witness, but be one!" he said.

**A**fter leaving Clarke, Rev. Parker attended and graduated from Samford University in Alabama and then received a Master of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

**B**y way of testimony to God's care for His people, the speaker told of his wife, Deborah, having radical surgery for cancer. While they were students at Clarke, she had to have additional surgery in Meridian. Finally in 1983, Deborah had a re-occurrence of cancer and died, leaving her

husband with two teenage children to raise. Out of all the tragedy in his life, James learned that God is more concerned with how you are on the inside, rather than what you do.

**S**ix years ago, God brought Jennifer into James' life as his wife and now in addition to a son, age 24, and a daughter, age 22, he and Jennifer have a son, age 4.

**I**n closing the Chapel service, Rev. Parker paraphrased II Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourselves in such a way as God approves, so that you should not be ashamed as His servant; being able to accurately handle the Word of Truth."



## Clarke Matrimonial College?

**I**f the saying "Marriages are made in Heaven" is true, there must be Legions of Angelic Bookkeepers planning and recording all of the weddings that had beginnings at Clarke College! It would be interesting to know how many couples met at Clarke and marched down the aisle together to the altar. For starts, there are: Wilbur and Lorene Palmer, Jim and Shirley Futral, Bryan and Mary Burt, Wyatt and Adrianna Harvey, Don and Margie Moore, William and Jeanette Spencer, Chris and Madge Atkinson, Toni and Bobby Adams, etc., etc. -this list is endless.

**Q**uestion: Would the couples who fall into the above category be interested in returning to Clarke on a Saturday for a "Renewal of Wedding Vows" ceremony? The agenda would look something like this:

1. Registration, greeting friends and then finding that favorite spot on the campus to enjoy as you once did.

2. Fun time in the Fine Arts Auditorium at a "Womanless Wedding" sponsored by the Women of Clarke organization.

3. A wedding feast in the college cafeteria.

4. Renewal of vows en-masse in the Fine Arts Auditorium led by a college personality.

If you are interested, please respond and give the following information:

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of What Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of year to have event: spring or summer?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the grandparents can't keep the children, they can be cared for on the campus.  
\_\_\_\_\_

This could be a very exciting and meaningful event. I will anticipate hearing from many of you.

Marian Thornton



# Clarke College Day Declared By Many MS Baptist Churches

We live in a day of modern miracles! God will not fail His people in the 20th Century just as He did not fail them in the 1st Century!

Due to the loss of regional accreditation in the spring, and consequently the loss of federal loans for the Clarke students, the faculty and staff of Clarke College declared a state of emergency for student funding. A letter was formulated and sent to all Baptist Churches in the 9 county area as well as to alumni pastors of other areas in Mississippi asking that August 20th be declared Clarke College Day. On this special day, the churches were asked to take up an offering equivalent to their total church membership and send the money to help with student loans.

The response was tremendous! At the date of this writing a total of \$10,797.96 has been received. With your help, students are able to continue with their education at Clarke.

Listed below are the names of churches who responded with gifts by the end of October:

Antioch - Louin  
Bay Springs  
Bethel - Newton  
Bethesda  
Beulah  
Bluff Springs  
Calvary - Meridian  
Calvary - Newton  
Calvary - Forest  
Cedar Grove - Lena  
Center Ridge  
Collinsville  
Conehatta  
Crossroads

DeKalb  
DeSoto - Shubuta  
Emmanuel - Union  
Enon - Louisville  
Enterprise  
First - Newton  
First - Taylorsville  
First - Quitman  
Forest  
Good Hope  
Goodwater - Enterprise  
Hickory  
Hillsboro  
Hopewell - Little Rock  
Knights Valley  
Liberty - DeKalb  
Liberty - Newton  
Midway - Carthage  
Midway - Newton  
Mt. Vernon - Newton  
Mt. Nebo - Neshoba  
Oak Grove  
Pinckney  
Pleasant Grove  
Poplar Springs - Newton  
Poplar Springs - Porterville  
Rock Branch - Newton  
Salem - Preston  
Salem - Carthage  
Sardis - Morton

Shubuta  
Sulphur Springs  
Ted  
Union

Listed below are the names of individuals who responded with gifts by the end of October:

Mary M. Bounds  
Charlotte W. Bryan  
M/M W. Troy Brand, Jr.  
Hulon Chaney  
Britt & Jan Crowell  
M/M Peyton Eady, Jr.  
Mrs. W.O. Glass  
Harry and Grace Hannah  
Roger and Barbara Harrison  
M/M L.T. McDill  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moore  
Gracie E. Nicholson  
Mrs. C.A. Pace  
M/M Polk Pace  
J. Herman Pilgrim  
M/M H.L. Rucker  
Glenn Shows  
Don and Leisa Taylor  
Kelton Valentine  
M/M J.C. Williamson

## 2,000 For 20 in 92

### A Plan for Consistent Giving

Do you "waste" \$20.00 a month on unnecessary and frivolous things? Most people do and think nothing of it!

This was the thinking of the Clarke College Alumni Officers as they met in a planning session in August. The topic was how the alumni can help the college through the present crisis and then continue to help it get back to the business of educating young people.

A plan of consistent giving was formulated and adopted in the

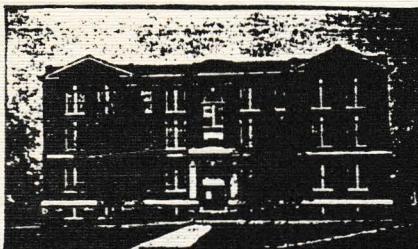
meeting. If 2,000 former students of Clarke and also Friends of Clarke would pledge \$20.00 a month for the year of 1992, the amount would total \$480,000.00. The slogan "2,000 for 20 in 92" was suggested and adopted. The Alumni Office is now in the process of enlisting people in the areas of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to help get the word out and get pledges made.

This Plan of Consistent Giving might be the very thing that will help Clarke have "a stable financial base" that the Accreditation Commission says that it doesn't have! Will you be a "Pledger?"

# Pages from the Past

THE PANTHER

## Clarke Memorial College



"Not the Biggest, But the Best"

Located at Newton, Mississippi, with easy access  
to Laurel, Meridian and Jackson

Four-year accredited high school course, and  
a two-year standard College course offered.  
Student body growing in numbers. The only  
college in the state with a fifty per cent in-  
crease in enrollment each year for the last  
three years. Both boys' and girls' dormi-  
tories, and the new Scanlan home filled.  
Eighteen families occupying the ministerial  
and other cottages.

There is a reason for all this. Personal atten-  
tion given to every student as to health, habits  
and studies.

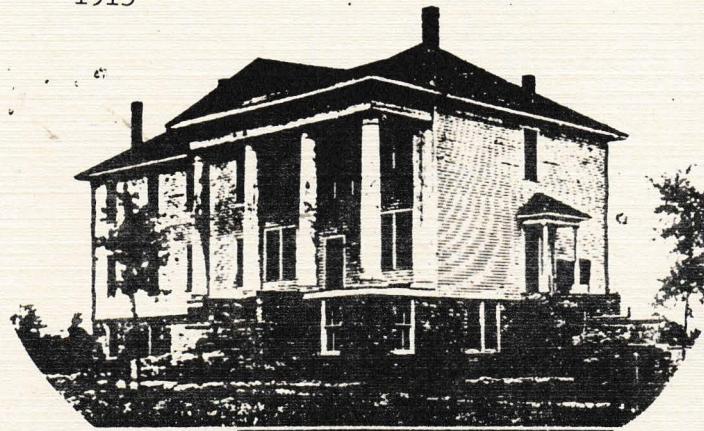
"Co-operation" is the key-word by faculty  
and students.

Send for catalogue.

H. T. McLaurin, Pres. -:- Newton, Mississippi

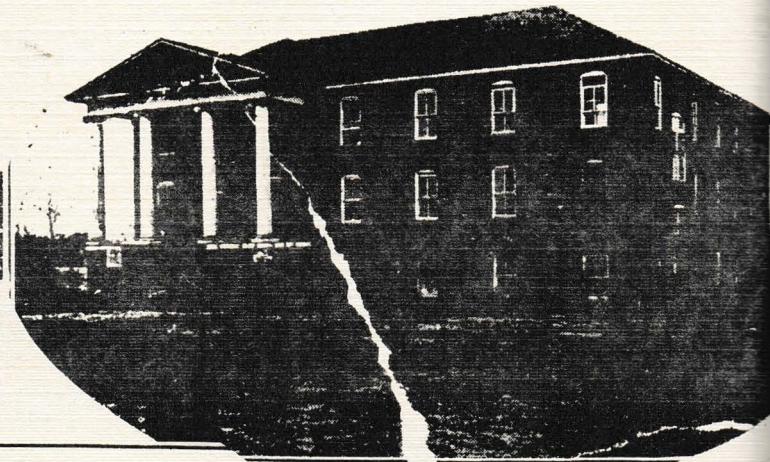
1926

1915



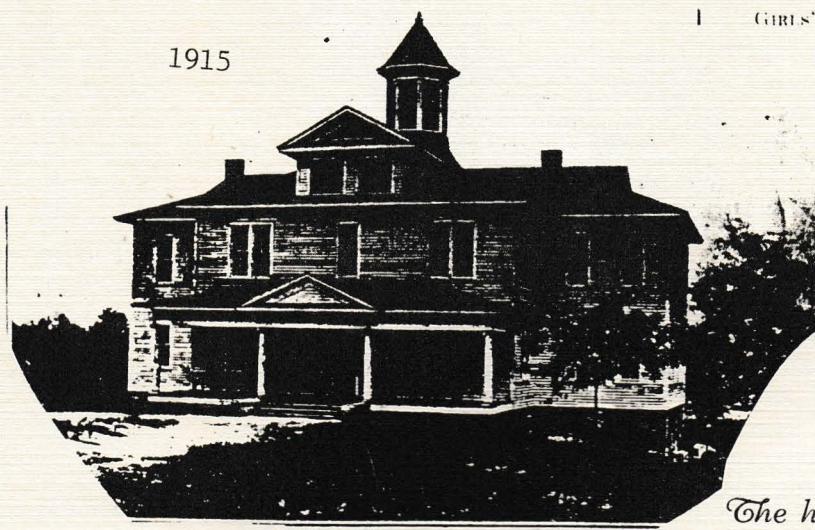
BOYS' DORMITORY

1915



GIRLS' DORMITORY

1915



COLLEGE CHAPEL

## Campus

: 1926 :

*The halls of Clarke College,  
Look upward to the sky;  
Within her walls is knowledge,  
For those who work and try.*

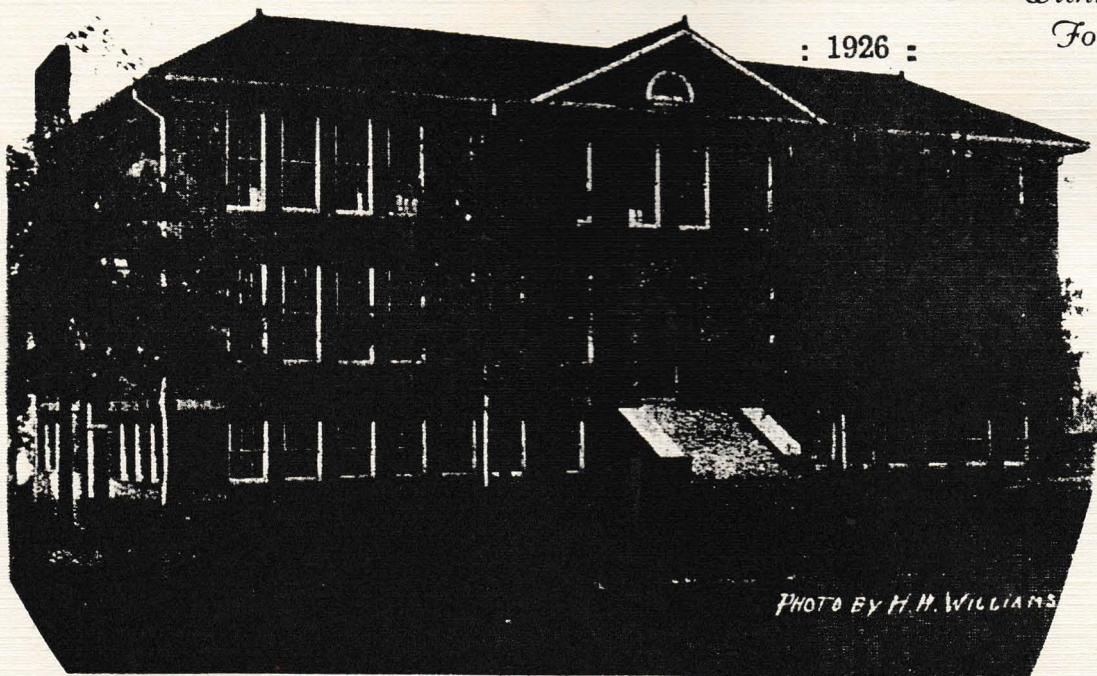


PHOTO BY H. H. WILLIAMS

"Behold her standing in all her beauty,  
Calling the scholars to their neglected duty." —Shakespeare.

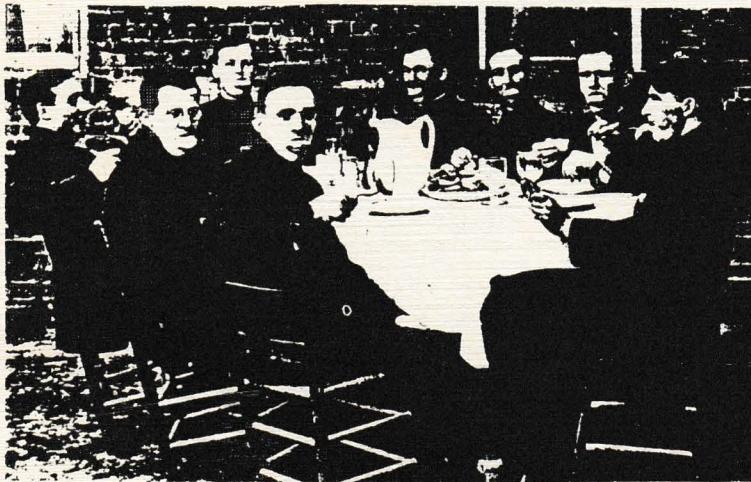
## Glimpses of the Past!

### Clarke College Clubs in 1915

1. The Red-headed Club
2. The Lauderdale County Club
3. The Newton County Club
4. The Hungry Club
5. The Greek Club
6. The Rooters Club
7. The Masonic Club
8. The Paddle Your Own Canoe Club
9. The Prune Club
10. The Co-ed Club
11. The Latin Club
12. The Billikin Club



THE CO-ED. CLUB



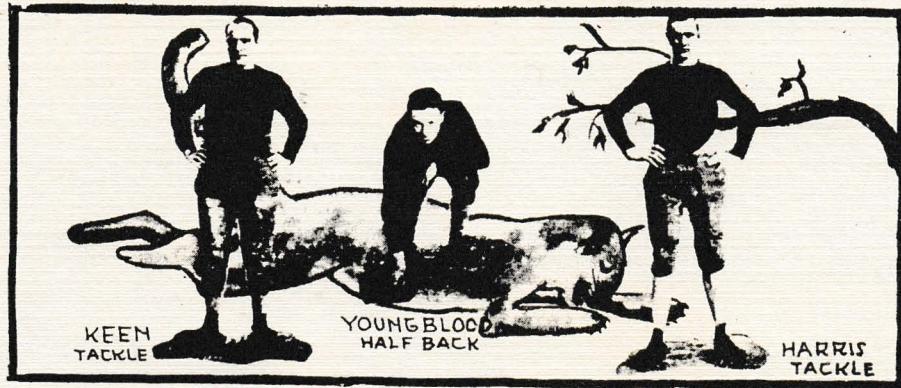
The Hungry Club

MOTTO: "Promptness at meals."

By no means the most unpopular Club in College is the Hungry Club. Our "Judge" was never known to frown; Ross is all smiles; "Red" never lets anything pass, and Thompson is always ready to start something. We predict a great future for the "biscuit-eaters."

THE PANTHER

Football



HERMAN KEENE, Tackle

"Grandpa" stands his ground—more than one has been punished by his long, hard-hitting hands.

STANLEY YOUNGBLOOD, Fullback

Watch the score increase for the Panthers when Red carries the "pill."

FULTON HARRIS, Tackle

"Bull" never allowed them to pass by—he never lost ground—his record is perfect.



FOOTBALL SQUAD

"It ain't the individual, nor the army as a whole,  
But the everlasting team work of every blooming soul."  
—Kipling.

# THE PANTHER

## Annual Football Banquet

CLARKE MEMORIAL COLLEGE

December 11, 1925

### MENU

Kick-off Cocktail  
Scrimmage Olives

Roast Panther Meat

First Aid Dressing	Gridiron Gravy
Varsity Potatoes	Scrub Peas
Victory Jelly	Edible Footballs
	Forward Pass Celery
	Eligibility Rolls

C. M. C. Salad

Sideline Sandwiches

Maroon and White Pudding

Blanket Cake

Bits of Clarke Pep

Nuts from Poplarville  
Banquet Coffee

## Football Schedule

Time.	Place.	Score.
Sept. 26	At Jackson	Clarke 0, Millsaps 6
Oct. 2	At Hattiesburg	Clarke 32, S. T. C., 0
Oct. 9	At Mobile	Clarke 0, Spring Hill 13
Oct. 16	At Newton	Clarke 0, Poplarville 0
Oct. 23	At Gulfport	Clarke 51, G. C. M. A., 0
Nov. 11	At Meridian	Clarke 0, A. & M. Reserves 0
Nov. 20	At Newton	Clarke 0, Miss. Papocses 7
Nov. 26	At Lumberton	Clarke 0, Poplarville 0
	Total Points scored by Opponents	26
	Total Points scored by Panthers	83

W. C. MILLS, Captain  
R. L. LAMBRIGHT, Coach

1926



Testing milk



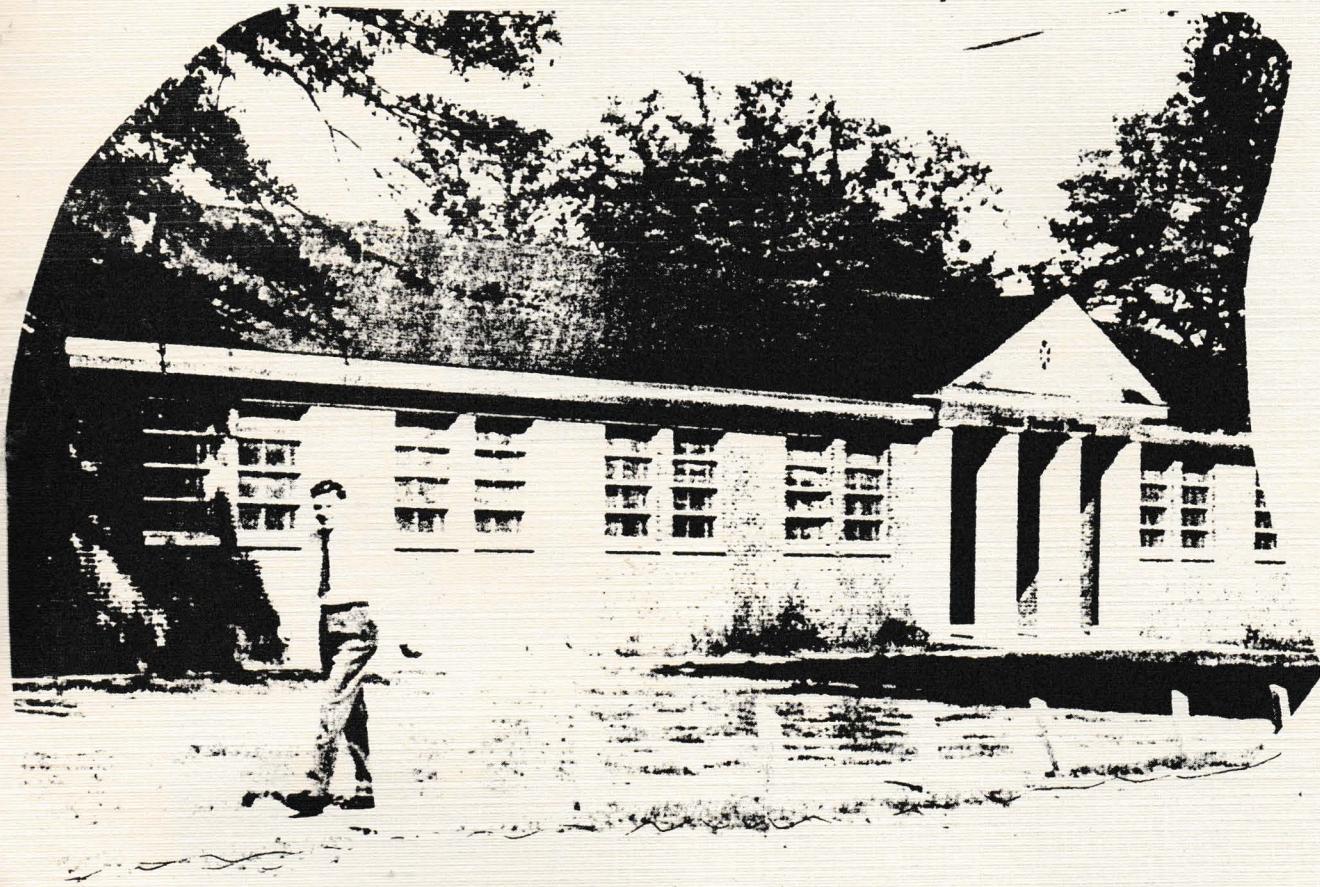
Feeding time!!





November 2, 1960

### The Men's Dormitory



## Our Latest Mark for Progress

As we, the students, watched the "Sanders Memorial Library" being built, we dreamed of the day when books would line the shelves. That dream came true one November day in this year of 1956. With this new building come wonderful thoughts of happy and enlightening experiences we shall share within its walls.



*Alma Mate*

Fill the halls of dear old Clarke  
Shout till the rafters ring!  
Stand and sing a song once aga  
Let every loyal Clarke man sing.

We will sing to all the happy da  
Sing to our God and His ways.  
Sing to Clarke, our Alma Mate  
The college of our hearts always

To the trees, to the sky, to the  
Hills that are yet encamping us.  
To the youth, to the joy, to the  
Life that is moving and calling

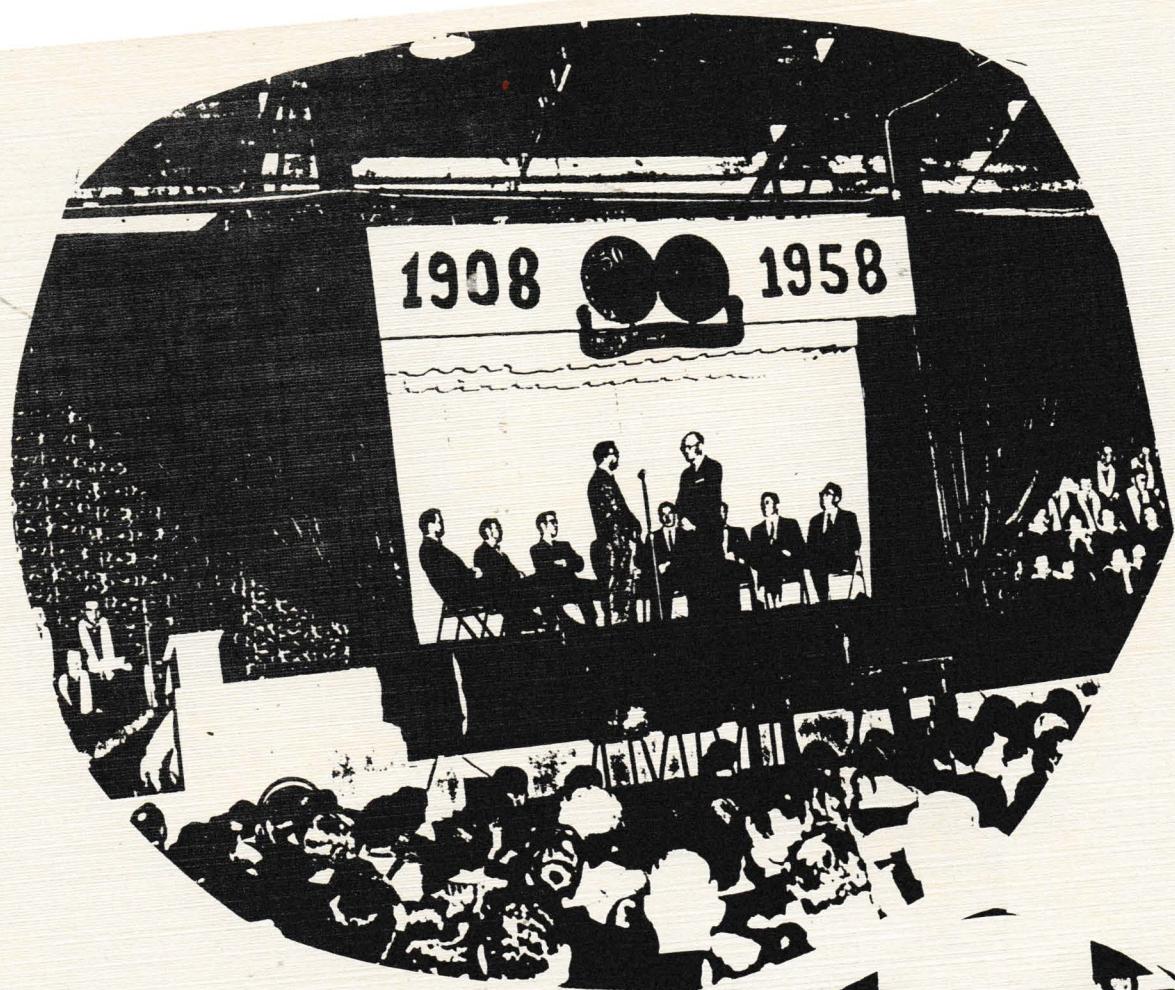
To the girls, to the boys, to the  
Teachers that guide our destinies  
To the maroon and the white,  
And the panther teams that fig  
Refrain. . . .

1947

The Clarke College Singers presented Menotti's *AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITOR* at Christmas time under the direction of Mr. James B. McElroy, with Miss Juanita West as drama consultant.

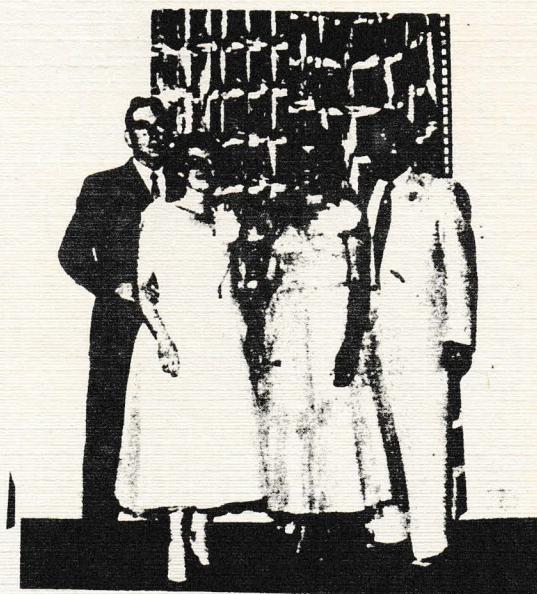
Throughout the year the Singers represent the school in churches, schools, conventions, and at civic meetings in the state and in neighboring states. They appear on television and on tour.





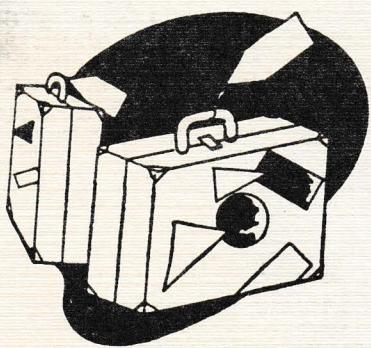


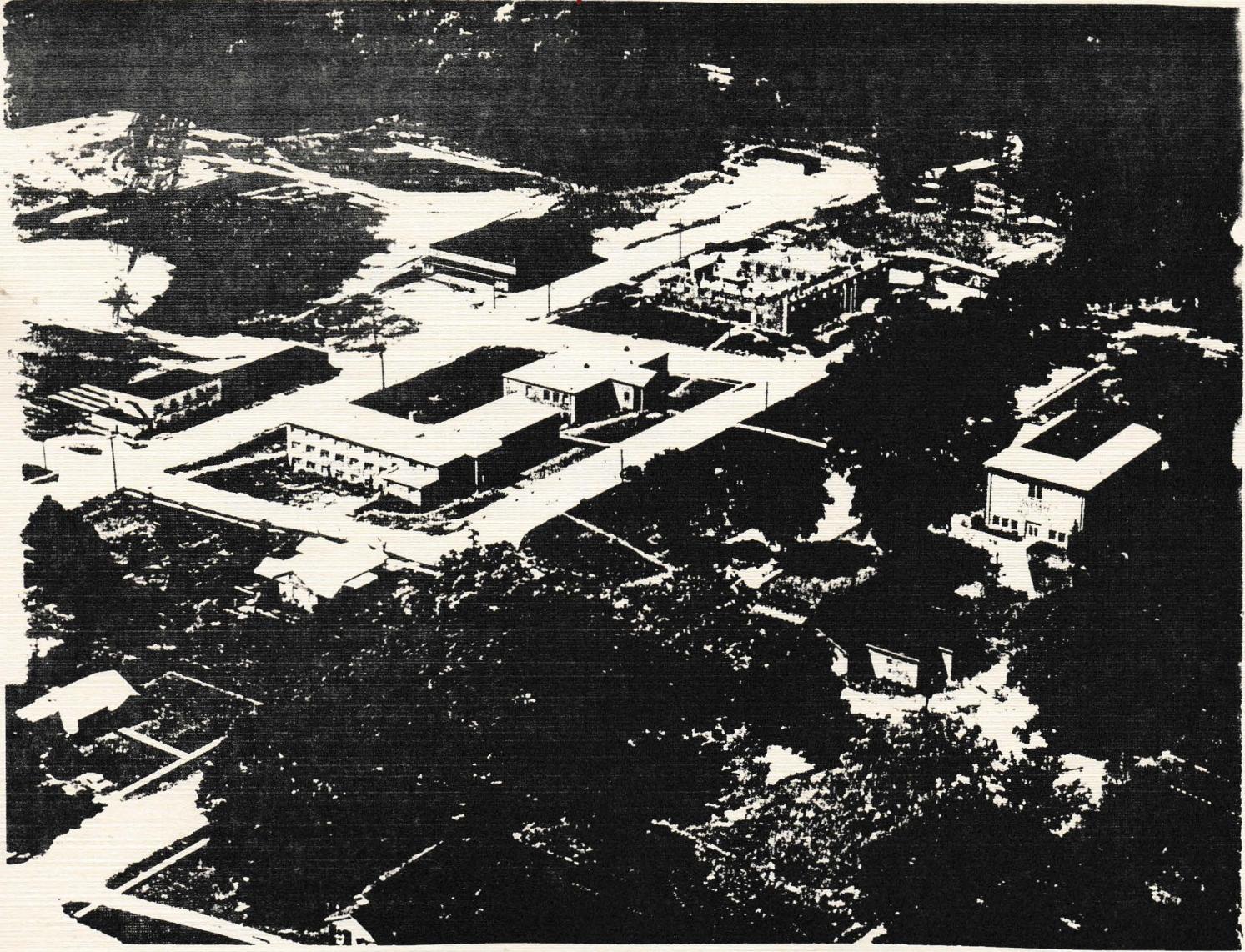
Arriving in New Orleans.  
BSU Mission Trip - 1954



Banquet dates.

BSU Banquet - 1954





*A  
great place to be  
Somebody!*

CLARKE COLLEGE

*Clarke College*  
*Homecoming*  
*and*  
*Memorial Service*

*Saturday, May 9, 1992*

*"Fought the Good Fight  
... Finished the Course"*

"The Spirit of Clarke College will continue  
to live and render service through the  
many students who have passed this  
way over the last eighty-three years."

---

# *Activities of the Day*

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30 - 10:20 Class Reunions, Alumni Choir Rehearsal

- 1908-1949 Fine Arts Building, Room No. 24
- 1950-1959 Library
- 1960-1969 Science Building, Room No. 4
- 1970-1979 Science Building, Room No. 3
- 1980-1989 Science Building, Room No. 5
- 1990-1992 Library, Reading Room  
Alumni Choir, FAB Choral Room

10:30 - 12:30 Program in Fine Arts Auditorium

Prelude: Mrs. Marian Thornton

Call to Worship: "Holy Ground" - Mrs. Toni Adams

Invocation: Dr. Eddie Ruddick

Congregational Singing: Mr. J. B. McElroy

Welcome and Recognitions: Dr. James Read

Special Guests

Classes by 10-year periods

Faculty and Staff, past and present

Alumni officers and Area Representatives

Couples who met at Clarke

Alumni Choir presentation: Mr. J. B. McElroy

History of Clarke College and Testimonies:

*"What Clarke College means to me"*

1908-1949 Representative: Dr. J. Hardee Kennedy

1950-1959 Representative: Rev. Chester Estes

1960-1969 Representative: Mr. W. D. McClendon, Jr.

1970-1979 Representative: Mrs. Judy Hall Thompson

1980-1989 Representative: Miss Gay Luke

1990-1992 Representative: David Thurman

Solo: "Found Faithful" - Mr. Lawrence White

Tribute to Dr. & Mrs. Charles Melton for 30 years Service-Dr. John Dent

Singspiration: Mr. J. B. McElroy

Closing Song: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Benediction: Dr. John Dent

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch in Cafeteria

---

# *A Tribute to Clarke College*

*You have been many things to many people:*

**You were a Challenge** to Mississippi Baptists in the early years as they struggled to make their new Christian College successful. You remained a challenge through the years as the struggle to remain successful continued.

**You were an Opportunity** for a quality education for those who came seeking it and you were a special place of Christian service to the dedicated faculty and staff members who gave of themselves unselfishly.

**You were a Home** for hundreds of students who could afford only two or three trips home during the year, and you provided a family-type atmosphere for students, faculty and staff alike.

**You were a Spiritual Retreat** where many met the Lord in salvation and where thousands made life-changing commitments to Him.

**You were a Training Ground** for ministers, youth workers, music directors, missionaries, workers in Baptist agencies and institutions, and Christian workers in secular vocations. You provided evangelism opportunities through revivals, mission trips, Summer Missions and Choir Tours.

**You were an Athletic Arena** for those who desired to represent the Lord on the football and baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts.

**You were a Friendship Club** which provided formation of "forever friendships" - those that last through eternity. You were a place where young people looked for and found a Christian mate to share life with.

As we close this chapter in history, we hold you up in **Highest Honor** and give thanks for the influence that you have had on our lives.

*"Blessed by the name of the Lord from  
this time forth and forever more."*

Psalm 113:2

*Names and Addresses of those who shared  
this Special Day together . . .*